



NEW FESTIVALS PLAN REVEALED

Report by Sue Austin

OSWESTRY could be set for a huge economic boost thanks to plans to base a whole host of new festivals in the town.

With LitFest starting next week and this year's Youth Music Festival being hailed as the biggest yet, Oswestry could also stage a major new cycling event and be one of the venues for the national Fake Festival.

Town councillors were due to meet last night (Wednesday) to look at possibilities for introducing no less than four new events to the festival calendar. The plans would bring thousands of visitors to the area, helping the local economy.

The council recently agreed in principle to promote a major week of celebration in Oswestry to benefit its town centre, markets, sports, music and the arts, setting up a Promoting Oswestry group.

One of the ideas was for a major cycling event to attract cyclists of all ages and also families.

In a report to last night's amenities committee Town Clerk David Preston said there had been talks with Peter Barkley from Stuart Barkley Cycles about holding such an event next year.

Businesses

Mr Preston said: "It is envisaged the races would consist of laps on a set route around the town so that retail businesses, restaurants, pubs and cafes could also benefit from the crowds."

Councillors were also due to last night discuss a proposal to invite the Fake Festival touring event to Oswestry next year.

The concept is based around tribute bands performing under a purpose built marquee and stage and is totally self-sufficient with all the infrastructure from security and medical team to insurance and the marquee.

A report to councillors said: "In order for the Fake Festival to go ahead the town council would have to commit to initial costs of £8,000 plus the cost of three tribute bands estimated at £3,000. In addition the festival organisers would then receive £5 per ticket on the first 1,000 tickets sold, less on future tickets.

"The town council would then receive ticket sales minus the fee and all bar sales."

Two events that could go ahead this summer were also due to be debated.

Councillors were expected to agree to plans for a celebration in Cae Glas Park on June 12 to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

And the park could also step back in time on July 23 and 24.

Councillor Steve Mason has called on the council to invite the living history group, The Sealed Knot, to Oswestry for a two-day event in Cae Glas Park when key moments in Oswestry's history would be re-enacted.

Before then, two major festivals will take place in Oswestry. Oswestry LitFest will run from Thursday next week while the Oswestry Food Festival returns to the streets on July 9-10 for its 10th anniversary event.

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Experience life in trenches at historic castle



Gareth Sandham takes a look at some of the objects on show at Powis Castle. Photo: David Hamilton.

THE idyllic countryside surrounding Powis Castle is a world away from the horrors of the First World War battlefields.

But visitors to the historic property this year will be invited to step into the trenches and experience life in the Somme as part of its war commemorations.

The cellars at the castle have been transformed into a recreation of a Somme trench and officer's dugout as part of its exploration of the story of Percy Robert Herbert, Viscount Clive, the 4th Earl of Powis's eldest son, who fought in the war.

Visitors are able to wander through passages made of sandbags, corrugated metal sheets and wooden supports, with period items scattered throughout as if the sol-

diers are still making use of the trenches. As they explore, Percy's story is brought to life through the screening of archive films and a display of wartime objects around the cellars.

The battlefield replica will remain open to all visitors to the castle until October 30.

Gareth Sandham, spokesman for the castle in Welshpool, said: "Percy was born into a life of wealth and privilege.

"As a new heir there were huge celebrations at the time of his birth, although his coming-of-age revelries were curtailed by the outbreak of war.

"He joined the newly-formed Welsh Guards in 1915 and served as an officer - a captain - in the war.

"He was heavily involved in the fighting on

the second day of the Somme, and later in the same battle at Fler-Courcelette he was seriously injured.

"He was brought back to London but he died of his injuries. He was 23-years-old."

As part of the centenary commemoration events this year Mr Sandham is hoping to be able to add to the exhibition with more war stories from anyone who has any family connection with the Powis estates.

Staff would like to be able to include stories from the ordinary people who worked on the estate and served during the war alongside Percy's experiences.

Any details, stories or pictures can be emailed to gareth.sandham@nationaltrust.org.uk or call (01938) 551920.

POLICE

Four men appear in court to face kidnap allegations

FOUR men have appeared in court accused of kidnapping a woman and three children.

It comes after police were called to Grif-fyn Courtyard in Leg Street, Oswestry, on Friday afternoon last week.

Four men from West Bromwich have each been charged with four counts of kidnap in connection with the Oswestry incident.

Brothers Musarat Khan, aged 36, from Greets Green Road, and Mohammed Anser Khan, 31, of Whitehall Road, appeared alongside Zahoor Hussain, 38, of Whitehall Road, and Ateek Khan, 27, of Oak Road, at Telford Magistrates Court on Monday.

Musarat Khan is also charged with assaulting Jonathan Holt and Mohammed Khan is accused of assaulting Jordan Davies on the same date.

The defendants only spoke in court to confirm their name, address and date of birth.

No pleas were indicated for any of the charges.

They were represented by Harmail Gill, who made a bail application on behalf of each of the men.

Magistrates refused the application and the defendants were all remanded in custody.

The case was committed to Shrewsbury Crown Court for a case management hearing on April 4.

RETAIL

Aldi proposal would bring a jobs boost

FORTY jobs will be created if a popular supermarket chain gets the go-ahead to build in Welshpool.

Discount food retailer Aldi is preparing a proposal for a new food store on Mill Lane, on derelict land adjacent to the Smithfield Bell public house.

Aldi held a public exhibition at Welshpool Scout Headquarters last week for residents to meet the project team, find out more about the proposal, and provide their feedback on the preliminary plans.

A spokesperson for Aldi said the plans were "well received" with more than 100 members of the public in attendance.

INSIDE

Restaurant wins Chronicle award



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Kidnap victim handcuffed and driven off, court told

Report by Andrew Morris

A MAN was told he was under arrest, handcuffed and driven from his home by kidnappers in a car which had blue flashing lights, a court heard.

Caernarfon Crown Court was told a kidnapper had been dressed as a policeman during the alleged incident.

The prosecution said the victim had been in a vehicle when a black Audi also pulled up on his driveway.

He told the court there were three men who he thought were undercover officers. "They shouted 'police - get out of the vehicle'," he said.

Barrister John Philpotts, for the prosecution, said the car used by the kidnappers had been stolen months earlier from outside a house at Hawarden, near Chester.

The owner had bought it from a dealership where Nathan Parry had been a car valet - and only one of the two keys given to the buyer fitted the Audi.

"Whoever had stolen the car had been in possession of a key," the prosecutor alleged. Parry, 37, of Jack's Wood, Ellesmere Port, and Natalie Goode, 33, of Willow Road, Lache, Chester - who was accused of collecting a ransom from the victim's mother - denied kidnapping, false imprisonment and blackmail.

Parry also denied intimidating the man.

Mr Philpotts said two men had pleaded guilty to their parts in the events last September which began when the victim returned home to the Four Crosses/Llanymynech area between Oswestry and Welshpool. During his ordeal the man had been allegedly warned that they wanted cash or he would be killed with a heroin injection, and had been blindfolded. He had also been threatened with being shot in a warehouse at Birkenhead, the jury heard.

Mr Philpotts said the victim's mother - a businesswoman - took thousands of pounds from her safe. She left her house and as she approached the pavement two figures came "from the shadows."

Goode, the prosecutor said, was handed a carrier bag of cash.

The defendant later denied to police that she knew about the kidnap and understood she was collecting a debt.

Mr Philpotts claimed there was "overwhelming circumstantial evidence" implicating Parry.

The trial continues.

New Saints go extra mile for Sport Relief



Naomi Stocker and physio Jason Brindley, front, with players Jamie Mullan and Greg Draper, plus coach Kieran Lee-Birch

FUNDRAISERS can put their running shoes on for Sport Relief at the home of The New Saints football club.

The Oswestry-based club will host the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile on March 20 at Park Hall Stadium, home of the Dafabet Welsh Premier League champions.

Many people have already signed up to run one, three, or six miles, but organiser Naomi Stocker said there was still time to bag a place, don the Sport Relief headgear and get involved.

Naomi, a member of The New Saints' Foundation team, said: "We are delighted that so many people have already signed up but we want even more people in Oswestry


to take part and make it the best Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile yet." Whether or not people are taking part in the Sport Relief Mile there will be live music, food promotions, free softplay and an inflatable shoot-out to make the day a memorable free family event for all the family to enjoy. Entrants can sign in at the function suite at The Venue, Park Hall, with music and breakfast on offer, before the 11am start.

The route will take in roads in the Park Hall area, winding past Oswestry rugby club and BT finishing at back at The Venue for refreshments and medals.

Footballers at the club are backing the Sport Relief Mile and it is hoped that the

club mascot Spot the Dog will make an appearance. The sport relief telethon will be held on March 18 with a special night of TV which will see actor James Corden's character Smithy - from the sitcom Gavin and Stacey - making a big comeback and announcing his intention to run for FIFA president. "On March 20 it's over to the people of Oswestry to come together and take part in the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile," Naomi said. "It's your turn to get sponsored and help transform the lives of people living in the UK and around the world."

People can enter at www.sportrelief.com or by calling (01691) 684840.

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Witness was 'surprised at no interview'

ONE of the last people to see army recruit Cheryl James alive said he was "surprised" he was not interviewed in the investigation into her death.

The 18-year-old soldier was discovered with a fatal bullet wound on November 27, 1995 – one of four recruits to die at Deepcut barracks in Surrey over a seven-year period.

Major Richard Rimmington, a former instructor at the base, told Surrey Coroner's Court in Woking he was probably the last person to see her alive. He said he drove through the gate at the training camp where Cheryl, whose parents live at Llany-mynech near Oswestry, was posted on guard duty moments before she died.

"At the gate I saw one person, it was a female, a female in uniform doing guard duties," he said.

"I showed her my ID card and probably said 'good morning how are you'."

When asked if there was "anything notable" about the teenage soldier he replied: "Not at all, not at all."

He said he has "always wondered" if he was the last person to see Cheryl alive but was not interviewed as part of the preliminary investigation into her death. "I was surprised no one came to talk to me," he added.

The inquest is being held after the findings of an initial inquest were quashed by judges. The hearing continues.

Teenager admits to wounding claim

A 17-year-old has been remanded to youth detention after admitting wounding a fellow student at a Shropshire college.

The teenager, who cannot be named for legal reasons, appeared before Shrewsbury Magistrates Court on Thursday last week.

He pleaded guilty to wounding with intent. The teenager also pleaded guilty to a charge of threatening a person with an offensive weapon on a school premises.

The court proceedings followed an incident at the Oswestry campus of North Shropshire College.

The incident happened on Wednesday morning last week.

The case was adjourned to Shrewsbury Crown Court for sentencing on April 4 and the teenager was remanded in youth detention.

His victim was taken to hospital for injuries to his face after the attack.

Development site to go back on market

A DEVELOPMENT site will go back on the market after a cinema giant pulled out of a £45 million leisure and shopping scheme.

Superstore giant Morrisons, which holds the lease for the former Smithfield land on Shrewsbury Road in Oswestry, has won the go-ahead to completely remarket the entire site.

It comes after cinema giant Cineworld announced it would not be open-

ing a multi-screen complex as part of the scheme. Talks were held last week between the landowner, Oswestry Town Council, and the other partners in the original £45 million project – Morrisons and Oswestry Livestock Auctions. A statement issued by the council said: "After legal and valuation advice, the council and Oswestry Livestock Auctions have agreed to changes to their agreement with Mor-

risons, subject to contract, to enable the whole site to now be immediately remarketed. This will enable the potential for new commercial development and employment opportunities to be explored. Without this course of action the risk is for the site to remain derelict, and unused, for a number of years."

Mayor Peter Cherrington, said: "The town council remains saddened

that, after many years of negotiation, Cineworld will not be coming to Oswestry. The council, however, has kept its commitment to continue to work with Morrisons and the decision has now been made to offer the company a revised agreement. This provides every incentive for the site to be brought forward for development, subject to planning consent, at an early time."

Shop boss looks forward to new stores in street

Report by Sue Austin

A SHOP manager says she is looking forward to stores re-opening in Oswestry's Cross Street.

The Dorothy Perkins fashion store in Cross Street is celebrating 30 years of trading in the town this year.

Sue Stedman, shop manager, said empty shop premises in Cross Street are now being actively marketed.

Two shops in the street have been been put up for let in recent weeks.

Former town mayor, Councillor Gareth Jones, pledged to press for the revitalisation of the street when he was in office in 2014 and Oswestry Town Council contacted agents for the stores for updates on their future.

Five shops in the street are currently empty.

Mrs Stedman said: "It would be good to have some life back into the empty shops."

"Dorothy Perkins brand is 100 years old and we have been trading for 30 years in Oswestry."

She praised the Oswestry Footfall project which has introduced art work and exhibitions into the windows of many empty stores in the town.

She said: "They have done a wonderful job, putting the artwork into those premises."

"It really does make a difference and it brightens the town centre up."

"But obviously we would prefer to see the shops open."

Last week the Chronicle reported that Dorothy Perkins had closed in 2011.

In fact the shop relocated in 2007 and has been in its current store in Cross Street since then.



Dorothy Perkins is celebrating 30 years of trading in Oswestry

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy needs stitches for dog bite on leg

A CHILD was bitten by a dog while walking with his mother.

The nine-year-old boy was walking along Greyfriars in Oswestry when he was bitten.

The incident happened about 4pm on Wednesday last week. A man and a woman were walking towards the boy and his mother with two dogs which were both on leads, police said.

The man was walking a brown and white long haired Jack Russell-type dog, while the woman was walking a brown rough coated small dog.

Pc Sarah McGrath, of West Mercia Police, said: "As the child has walked past, the Jack Russell has bitten him on the back of his leg resulting in him needing stitches."

"The boy was obviously shaken up by the incident and we would like to make contact with the owners to offer them advice on how to keep the dog under control and any steps they may need to take."

Anyone with information should call 101.

Pamper night to help charity

A WOMEN'S pamper night will be held in Oswestry tomorrow (Friday) to raise funds for the Leukaemia Care charity.

Running buddies, Jody Wilson and Jason Turner are both running the London Marathon for the charity this year.

Jody's sister, Thea Wilson, fought a successful battle with leukaemia in 2014.

Katie Wilson, Jody's wife, is behind the pamper night at the Oswestry Rugby Club.

Tickets are just £5 to include a free drink or £2 for under 16s.

There will be health and beauty treatments and demonstrations, make up and nail specialists.

Home gifts and sweet stalls will also be set up and music will come from Ellesmere singer, Molly.

Tickets are available from Katie on 07841350174.

Council budget agreed

A 4.25 per cent hike in council tax and £10 million in savings is about to hit Powys residents.

The move has been made in order to produce a balanced budget for the coming financial year. Members voted for the increase at a full meeting of Powys County Council at County Hall yesterday (Wednesday).

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Author Cathy is looking forward to literary festival

Report by Pam Kingsley

BOOKWORM Cathy Rentzenbrin has spoken of her pleasure in bringing the joy of the written word to Oswestry.

The author and associate editor of The Bookseller magazine is a guest director of this year's Oswestry LitFest, which will run from March 17 to 20.

And she says she cannot wait to do her bit to spread the joy of reading to others. She said: "I've been to the Booka Bookshop in Oswestry before to do a talk about my book, but I've not been to the LitFest. It was such a lovely event when I came though and it's a lovely place. Bringing together readers is a wonderful thing. I love doing events for my own book and I like interviewing authors as well."

Sheep die in horrific dog attacks

A SHEEP farmer has pleaded with dog owners to keep their animals on leads after one of her animals was killed in an attack.

Sue Heard, who owns Ifton Beech Shropshire Sheep, said her flock was attacked by two Japanese Akita dogs while they were in a field at The Sarn, between St Martins and Gobowen.

She said: "We have a flock of 11 very shocked tups, boy sheep, many with bite wounds."

"They were being kept on land we rent and thankfully the lady we rent from heard dogs barking and went outside to see what was happening, and she saw one of the dogs dragging one of the sheep around. She had to go and shout at them to scare them off."

"She's a dog person and she said she knew they were dangerous and wouldn't have wanted to get too close. They are very large dogs."

"She went back inside after scaring them off and called me and the police."

"The dogs had dragged two sheep around by their throats before they left and a vet was called to treat those wounds. One of the tups who was bitten has now died."

"Luckily we've just finished lambing and all our ewes and lambs are on our own field."

"But sadly after the dogs were scared away from our sheep they attacked and killed two in-lamb ewes at a farm a couple of fields away."

Police are appealing for witnesses to the attack or for any information on the dogs or their owner.

"It is a wonderful way to spend your time. I still have to pinch myself to convince myself I'm not dreaming."

"I'm really looking forward to coming back to Oswestry and spending the week-end talking to people about books."

Cathy will kick off the festival on the Friday evening by introducing the Wilfred Owen Lecture, being delivered this year by poet, author, playwright and broadcaster Owen Sheers.

One subject particularly dear to her heart is encouraging more people to read, and as a result she will be launching a new Quick Reads book club at Oswestry Library on the Saturday at 1pm.

"Literacy is one of my passions. I'm delighted to be doing the launch in Oswestry," she said.

"Once a year we publish six short books for less confident readers or people who have less time to read."

"They're for adults but they're fast and fun to read."

"If you're an adult and you've never read a book before the idea is to try to make them easier. We hear from a lot of people who used to read longer books as well but who are now enjoying Quick Reads, like new mums who have less time than they used to."

Later in the day she will be dipping into the other side of publishing as she interviews her agent, Jo Unwin, and editor, Francesca Main, to take readers behind the scenes of what goes into bringing out a book.

"Readers find it interesting to take a look behind the scenes," she said.

"We'll be talking about how my book came about rather than its content, how you get an agent, how the editing process works. I think people really like to get a look backstage."

The festival will welcome a host of authors, performers, storytellers and illustrators to venues across the town.

For the full programme visit oswestrylitfest.co.uk

Joe and mum in funds bid



Joe Bradley and mother Sally are doing a sponsored swim for Diabetes UK

A FEW weeks ago Joe Bradley seemed as healthy as any other nine-year-old, having enjoyed a family Christmas with all the usual food treats.

But then he became pale and tired, developed a thirst and eventually grew so ill his father couldn't wake him at their home in Whittington near Oswestry to go to school.

He was taken to the doctors and within hours he was in hospital where he was diagnosed as having type 1 diabetes.

The diagnosis has turned his and his family's life upside down.

Joe has to check his blood several times a day, eat precise amounts of food and also inject himself with insulin.

His mother Sally now wants to raise

awareness of the condition and raise money for Diabetes UK. The duo have embarked on a sponsored swim, aiming to swim the equivalent of the Channel - 22 miles - in just 12 weeks. It means that they have to between them average 150 lengths a month.

Mrs Bradley said that before the diagnosis five weeks ago she had no idea of the dangers of diabetes and how type 1 diabetes can strike anyone however healthy their lifestyle. She said Joe himself was being amazing and very matter of fact.

"He injects himself and just gets on with things," she said. To date mum and son have raised £458 for their swim. People can donate at Just Giving site, <https://www.justgiving.com/Sally-Bradley2>

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Town museum welcomes its 20,000th visitor to site

Report by Naomi Penrose

A MUSEUM celebrated its fourth birthday by welcoming its 20,000th visitor through its doors.

Volunteers at Oswestry Town Museum were thrilled to welcome landmark visitor Alan Broom from Halfway House on Wednesday last week.

It was the first time Mr Broom, 70, originally from Oswestry, had visited the museum. Mark Hignett, one of the founding members, trustee and volunteer, said it was a special day for all involved at the museum.

He said: "We were over the moon to have our 20,000th visitor walk through our doors on our fourth birthday. What a way to celebrate and it couldn't have been a better person."

Man jailed for having child images

A MAN who exchanged indecent pictures and sexual messages with children as young as 13 has been jailed for three years.

Matthew Evans, 24, of Bicton Heath, Shrewsbury, admitted 15 charges, including causing or inciting a child to engage in sexual activity, and distributing indecent images.

The case was delayed as Evans received treatment in the cells when he collapsed in the dock at Shrewsbury Crown Court on Friday. The offences took place in Gobowen near Oswestry between 2012 and 2014.

Judge Jim Tindal admitted he had considered a heavier sentence of five years, but took into consideration Evans's guilty plea and other mitigating factors, including mental health problems and his age.

He said: "You tricked eight different children aged between 13 and 17 into sending you pictures of themselves and then you distributed them. This was a cynical abuse of their trust, either for your gratification, or for others, or both."

"The harm you caused was not only to the children you abused, but by holding over their heads that you would release them, that added salt to wounds."

"You started to make plans to meet but none of the plans came to anything."

Evans sent a total of 40,000 messages to a number of children under 16 and contacted them via the website tagged.com, WhatsApp and Badoo.

Brendan Reedy, mitigating, said: "He said he committed the offences in drink."

Mr Broom was the fourth visitor to pass through the museum's doors on Wednesday last week.

Mr Hignett said reaching the 20,000 visitor mark in four years was more than they had envisaged, as they aimed to welcome 3,000 visitors per year – instead welcoming 5,000.

He added: "The museum volunteers are also involved in a number of ancillary projects which last year saw a booklet published on the men from Oswestry who fought in the Crimean wars, the Peninsular wars and at Waterloo. Also the creation of the Trench Experience at Park Hall Countryside Experience."

The museum is based in the Guildhall on Bailey Head, and is open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am to 4pm and on Saturdays from 10am to 3.30pm.

Inside are three main exhibition rooms – the main exhibition room which has a timeline of the important historic events in Oswestry, a children's activity room and research facilities; the judge's chambers which contains an exhibition connected with the orthopaedic hospital at Gobowen and natural science collections; and the magistrates court with views over the castle and hillfort together with exhibitions related to Oswestry industries and clubs.



Mark Hignett, right, with Alan Broom at Oswestry Town Museum

Suspect barrels removed

BARRELS suspected of holding hazardous chemicals that had been dumped in woodland behind houses have been collected from the area.

The hazardous waste department at Veolia – Shropshire Council's waste contractor – confirmed they had collected the drums that were found in woodland in Morda, near Oswestry, on Thursday last week.

It is still not known exactly what the barrels contained, however it was a red liquid suspected to be fuel, according to Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service.

On Tuesday afternoon last week part of Glentworth Close in Morda was closed off for around two and a half hours while firefighters tried to establish what was in the sealed containers and whether the area was

safe. Rob Corfield, a group commander at Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service, said firefighters wearing breathing apparatus and gauntlets checked the three sealed drums containing a red liquid. Two of the drums were on their side and one was upright. The drums, which were found not to have leaked, were put into an airtight large drum ready to be collected.

A dog also fell ill in the area while investigations were being carried out and later died. But fire service chiefs said there is not believed to be a link between the animal's death and the containers. Mr Corfield said it appeared to be "an unfortunate co-incidence" that the dog had died.

At the time of the investigation most residents were asked to stay indoors.

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

News that Welshpool is to get two new supermarkets sent the social network chat lines spinning last weekend with mixed opinions voiced on the arrival of B&M and Aldi.

Powys County Council has already given the green light for B&M after approving plans and work is expected to start almost immediately alongside the Tesco store. Aldi unveiled their blueprint for a new store alongside the Smithfield Bell pub at an exhibition in the town last week. Like many other interested residents I went along to the exhibition and have to say how impressed I was by the professionalism of the team behind the scheme. Because if you remember it isn't long since Lidl had plans rejected for a supermarket on the same site.

Aldi bosses seem to have addressed all the issues which both Welshpool Town Council and Powys County Council raised in objecting to the Lidl scheme and unless I'm missing something pretty big there seems no reason why this scheme will not go through unopposed.

So is all this activity good or bad news for the people of Welshpool? Only time will tell but the development of the two sites is already long overdue and both have become ugly eyesores at the entrance to the town sending out a very poor message to visitors.

Whether Welshpool can cope with two more stores of this size is another issue. With Tesco, Morrisons and Sainsbury's already competing for trade something is bound to give and it's doubtful that all will survive long term. And there is also a knock-on effect for the local small trader, whose business is bound to suffer. And that could mean more empty town centre shops again.

Most people from the town who took to Facebook or Twitter to vent their opinions seem to be in favour of the new Aldi store, citing lower prices and more choice as a massive plus, while others question the need for another store and are concerned about the future of others.

Aldi bosses say it will take at least 12 months to get their plans through the process and get the builders on site and an awful lot can happen in that time. I'll be watching with interest.

.... The end to free parking at Welshpool's Tesco store and the promise of clamping for those staying longer than three hours has created another problem for the town.

Now drivers, still reluctant to fork out to stop in the Powys County Council car parks, are ditching their cars wherever they can. Police have been issuing warning tickets to motorists who have been lining unrestricted streets and housing estates in a bid to avoid paying at the ticket machines.



Bosses say a multi-million pound extension will improve care at the orthopaedic hospital



John Grinnell, the acting chief executive at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital



Work on the £15 million extension to the orthopaedic hospital is continuing

Bosses promise to get hospital back on track

Key standards at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital are set to improve say bosses. PAM KINGSLEY reports

BOSSSES at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital have vowed to improve standards at the world famous facility.

The Gobowen-based hospital has been told it has to improve after an inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Although the staff were praised as "good" for their caring attitude to patients, the hospital was rated as "requires improvement" for whether its services were safe, responsive, effective and well-led.

A team of CQC inspectors and specialists spent four days at the hospital in October.

They said they were impressed by the professionalism and efficiency of the surgical department which was rated as good overall.

And they found patients felt they had been well cared for, were shown respect, treated with dignity and their privacy was protected.

Patients were "full of praise" for all the staff, the inspectors said in their report, which was released last week.

But the inspectors also found inconsistencies across the service and pinpointed where improvements had to be made.

Recommendations from the CQC inspectors include the hospital must ensure that all incidents, including non-clinical incidents are reported by all staff. All action plans should be monitored to improve the quality of care and develop services.

Hand hygiene standards must improve, the inspectors said. The hospital must also audit hand hygiene practices.



Inspectors visited the orthopaedic hospital in October

There should be hand washing instructions, and use of hand sanitisers in all clinical areas and corridors.

The inspectors say paediatric medical cover during the evenings, overnight and at weekends must be put in place to ensure that they can respond in an appropriate, safe and timely way to deteriorating and seriously ill children.

Staff caring for children must be able to identify, report and treat deteriorating and seriously ill children, the CQC recommended, and the hospital must ensure that patient's medical notes in the High Dependency Unit include a record of all doctor visits and any revision to the patient's treatment plan.

Other recommendations include there must be at least one team member with up to date paediatric resuscitation training on duty at all times on Alice ward - the children's ward.

so many examples of outstanding care. It is so heartening to see that the CQC inspectors saw this too.

"The most important feedback, of course, comes directly from our patients. Patients who spoke to the CQC told them that they had been well cared for and that staff were sensitive to their needs and treated them with kindness, compassion and respect.

"Clearly, however, our overall rating of 'requires improvement' tells you that there are some areas where we can and must make changes. There are some key themes that come out of this report, and we have already begun making changes to address these.

"Overall, this report gives us a helpful independent snapshot of how we are doing. We welcome the good points and embrace the negatives as challenges which we can and will address."

The inspection took place a week after former chief executive Wendy Farrington-Chadd resigned from her post citing personal reasons and a desire to look for a new challenge.

A new chief executive has now been appointed. Mark Brandreth, who is currently deputy chief executive and director of operations and planning at the Countess of Chester Hospital, is due to take up the post later this year.

John Grinnell, who was director of finance, took over as acting chief executive at the start of October.

He said: "Clearly there are areas where we can and must improve - we have already taken action in several of these and are working on detailed action plans to address each and every issue that has been raised."

One issue which will be resolved very soon will be the issue of privacy and dignity on the High Dependency Unit.

Bosses say that issue will be addressed by the opening later this year of the hospital's new £15.1 million ward and theatre development, which includes a new state-of-the-art High Dependency Unit facility.

WORKING FOR YOU



Important news for Montgomeryshire (and wider Central Wales) is that construction of the Newtown bypass began this week.

A bypass for the town has been under discussion for about 70 years.

It's been under serious discussion since decisions were taken in the 1970s to greatly increase the size and population of Newtown.

The Newtown bypass is the most important economic development in Mid Wales for decades.

It is expected that it will be open to traffic in early 2018.

This week I've been celebrating a day full of promise for Mid Wales, and in two years' time I will celebrate again - with even greater enthusiasm.

I first became involved in the campaign for a Newtown bypass when I was chairman of Montgomeryshire District Council in the 1980s, guided to some extent by the late great inspirational Peter Garbett-Edwards.

I became more involved when I took over as chairman of the Development Board for Rural Wales in 1989. The DBRW was charged with two overall responsibilities. Our first responsibility was to promote social and economic development through most of rural Wales - from Cardigan and Ystradgynlais in the south to Blaenau Ffestiniog and Bala in the north. We also had a responsibility to finish the job of doubling the size of Newtown.

Crucial to both of these objectives was construction of a new bypass for Newtown.

Many think the bypass is just to relieve traffic problems for Newtown. But that is just one part of its benefit. It's just as much to enable traffic to travel through to Llanidloes, Machynlleth, Aberystwyth and Dolgellau to support the economies of West Wales.

The new bypass is not cheap - the total cost being in excess of £50million. In my view, the economic benefit of the project is many times more than that. It is excellent value for money.

And it's not only the new road itself. There will be lots of development opportunities along its length, instigating a big advance for Newtown.

Other strategic road improvements would make a real difference to Mid Wales. There is still much more to do to connect Mid Wales to the big populations in England.

The area desperately needs an improved road from Welshpool to Middletown. And we need an A483 which bypasses Llannymynech and Pant. But today is not for complaining. We are celebrating the start on the most important road improvement of all for Mid Wales.

Glyn Davies
Montgomeryshire MP

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Letters

Worth checking how much EU costs you

I HAVE also been quite confused by all the figures bandied about by the European in and out campaigns and in particular, wondered how much tax do we as individuals, really pay to the EU.

To find out, I did some research myself and found that if you do your tax return online, it is very easy to check the amount and percentage paid to the EU from your total income tax bill.

When I checked my contribution for the last full tax year, I found the percentage was a tiny 0.6 per cent. I am comfortably above the average national income, but even then I only paid just over £25 for the

year, or to put another way, about 50p per week.

Not only that. The bar chart showing where every element of my tax went, had the EU contribution as the lowest category of all.

While I also found that we do pay a little bit more through a contribution of 0.3 per cent on VAT, it does mean that average earning taxpayers actually pay very little to the EU and low earners pay nothing at all, by way of income tax. It seems safe to assume that the percentage paid to the EU is the same for all, although of course the likes of Fred Goodwin and other fat cats

past and present will be paying a whole lot more in terms of pounds, but somehow I don't mind that!

Because we are in the EU we avoid tariffs on traded goods between the member countries. If we leave, there is a very strong risk we will not be able to negotiate such a good deal, making the cost of most things we buy much more expensive. Exporting UK goods would be similarly made more difficult for British industry. Why take the risk? If you don't believe me, check how much tax you pay to the EU yourself.

PETER SELL
Ludlow

It is time to take banking services into our own hands

AS we know HSBC, our local bank, is closing several branches situated in towns and villages across the country.

I applaud the many protests and petitions organised that are sadly to no avail, HSBC is not for changing. The closure programme arrived with no prior consultation with its customers or it seems it branch staff - totally unbelievable.

In the Dee Valley area it seems that only one local bank branch is available between Bala and Wrexham, this being Barclays in Llangollen, an area with some 30,000 people.

The original idea of banking was developed by local people for the people, something our bankers have forgotten.

The claim stated for the closures is the increase in online and telephone banking, this a rich statement to assume that everyone wishes to use these methods. Not everyone has a computer. In some areas broadband is difficult to access and as for mobile phones with many dead areas I am often unable to send text messages.

The banks already create heavy charges to customers for their services, further expense will be experienced in time and travel to the distant branch. For the many in this area the HSBC branch in Wrexham can be difficult to access, even more difficult if you only use public transport.

Following the closure notice we see HSBC spending large sums on sponsorship of the Dubai Golf Championship.

The only positive way forward is to set up a new bank. In the last four years the present government has made it much easier to set up a new bank. Already it seems more than 10 have been formed, such as the Hampden Bank in Edinburgh which is very successful. I have had an interesting discussion with personnel of this bank who are most willing to meet and pass on their experience. From the research to date all this is possible but needs the interest and support to move forward.

RAY HUGHES
Wrexham

Our PM should be putting UK first

A LOT of guff has been written and spoken about the stay/leave debate as to whether we would be better off in or out of the European Union.

I don't think David Cameron should be kowtowing to other EU members for a better deal, I think he should put this country first.

We all know Mr Putin wants Ms Merkel to lead in Europe, oh, guess what, Mr Tusk is also German, there you have it, political conspiracy to make us behave like good little people and do what we are told.

Sorry, but I can remember how well this country used to trade with other countries before this EU calamity was forced upon us.

You need us more than we need you, so, when we decide to come out, we will be able to put all those wasted millions to proper use, looking after our own people.

M EDDIES
Shrewsbury

Operators in action on new telephone system



Mrs Freda Hopes and colleagues in action with the operator service at Oswestry's brand new £2 million telephone exchange, pictured at the time of its official opening in March 1983.

Fortunate to have such an excellent hospital in area

I READ an article regarding the waiting times at Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Gobowen.

The NHS comes in for a lot of criticism and sometimes this is warranted but I am a great believer in "speak as you find" and although I did not have to wait for my treatment, having been referred for surgery by RSH after a nasty fall, I must write to commend the staff at Gobowen for their efficiency and professionalism as I was treated with the utmost respect and consideration. There is a lot to be said for communication.

When one of the consultant's clinics was running late, not only was there a note on the whiteboard in the waiting area, but also the nurses who were clearly very busy took the time to advise people of the waiting time. How many other NHS establishments (or other organisations come to that) would take the time to consider those waiting in this way? We should think ourselves fortunate to have this resource in our area.

B J SPILLANE
Shrewsbury

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
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EMAIL

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chronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Our industries are on last legs

ARE 'Dodgy Dave' and 'Boy George' striving to shut down British industry?

There are no deep coal mines left, all the utilities are foreign owned and our armed forces have been decimated.

When the Tories finally cripple the unions there work will be almost finished except for the NHS.

Dodgy Dave and Boy George say they are standing up for workers. Unfortunately they're in China not Britain.

J POND
Shrewsbury

Use of burners is a worry for many different reasons

WOODBURNERS are in the news again. I read in the Shropshire Star about fire crews attending 22 chimney fires in as many days.

These fires are caused by burning unseasoned wood in the burners that produces tar in the chimney, how does tar manifest itself in the smoke that comes from these chimneys? Is it toxic? Does anyone know or care?

Also the article mentions 'things being put on fires that shouldn't be'. Certain plastics burnt on woodburners can be toxic, we have no idea what we are inhaling when these burners are being used.

Some people just don't care as long as they are cosy and warm. I have mentioned in a previous letter the many problems that are caused by neighbours using wood burners. They are terribly anti-social things.

They may be less harmful to the environment but God only knows what they are doing to humans, especially when they are misused and chimneys are not cleaned.

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Barbara Stafford-Cairns from Shropshire Council's Cross Party Working Group, Louise Calvey from Refugee Action and Jools Payne at the event



Louise Calvey from Refugee Action attended the Oswestry talks

Refugee aid offered

MORE than 80 people attended talks to discuss resettling families of Syrian refugees in Oswestry.

A pop-in session was held in the Willow Gallery in the town on Saturday to answer any questions people have about their arrival.

Organisers said the meeting was also very useful to help coordinate how volunteers and businesses can help those arriving in Shropshire from late spring.

Shropshire Council has said up to 10 Syrian families could be taken in, and Oswestry and Shrewsbury were identified as potential areas

for the refugees to be relocated. The Oswestry Welcomes Syrian Refugees campaign group has approached 200 individuals and organisations signed up and ready to help.

Saturday's information event was organised by Oswestry businesswoman and campaigner Jools Payne.

Mrs Payne said: "I was delighted at the turn out on Saturday."

"We had more than 80 people through the door and at one point it was standing room only. Barbara Stafford-Cairns, from Shropshire Council, did an excellent presentation which was very well received."

"I was enormously encouraged by Louise Calvey who is from Refugee Action.

"Everyone was impressed by her depth of knowledge. She has a lot of expertise and she gave a lot of information about what we can do."

"We have had some great offers of help from the community and there were some really great people in the room."

Anyone interested in learning more about the Oswestry Welcomes Syrian Refugees campaign is asked to get in touch with the group.

People can either contact Mrs Payne on (01691) 680717 or email jools@thejoolspaynepartnership.com

Telford & Wrekin Council has also pledged to take Syrian families over the next five years, and the authority expects to welcome 10 refugees this spring.



More than 80 people attended an information event on how the community can help Syrian families arriving in Oswestry

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Pair jailed for robbery at business

A ROBBER who held up a shop keeper with a silver toy gun has been jailed for four years and three months.

Alan McNeill, 27, went into the Greatorex Store at Llanrhaeadr ym Mochant, near Oswestry one evening last April, produced the gun and demanded that the till was opened.

McNeill then grabbed two bottles of Southern Comfort whiskey and fled.

McNeill of Fairclough Road in Huyton, Liverpool, was jailed for four years and three months after he admitted the robbery and the theft of the gun.

Co-defendant Hayley Sudlow, 32, of Queen Elizabeth Close in Oswestry, the getaway driver, was jailed for three years and ten months after she admitted the robbery charge.

The court heard the two defendants had earlier been staying in a flat at the former Three Tuns public house in the village and McNeill had stolen the gun.

The owner was a Wild West enthusiast who collected clothing and cowboy themed memorabilia and he found that a replica Colt 45 revolver was missing. The gun was described in court as similar to the weapon used by The Milky Bar Kid.

Whist drive will help out charity

A WHIST drive will be held in aid of the NSPCC in Whittington near Oswestry next week.

The drive has been organised by the Welsh Borders branch, which helps children in Oswestry and surrounding areas.

It will take place on Wednesday at 7.30pm in the senior citizens' hall.

Entrance is £2 to include refreshments and there will be a raffle.

Restaurant's charity work seals award win

WE MEAN BUSINESS

A POPULAR Oswestry restaurant celebrating 40 years in business has something else to celebrate – winning a Chronicle We Mean Business Community Award.

The Simla Restaurant was chosen by our judges as a winner of the award for all the work for the community owner George Miah and his team do.

The award scheme was launched as part of our We Mean Business campaign which every week highlights a great Oswestry business. All the businesses we have featured in the first six months of the campaign were in the running for a Community Award.

Readers were asked to nominate the business they felt did the most for the community.

And taking our readers' views into consideration our judges, Chronicle associate editor Iain St John, the newspaper's advertising supervisor Beverley Thompson and Martin Wright, editor of our sister paper the Shropshire Star, were tasked to decide which three businesses should receive a Community Award.

The Simla Restaurant was chosen as a winner in recognition of it staging an annual fundraising dinner for good causes since 1980.

Mr Miah said: "I would guess we would have raised at least £70,000 to £80,000 over the years, probably more."



George Miah from the Simla Restaurant with the Chronicle Community Award and certificate

NEWS IN BRIEF

Work starts at last on £56m road

CONTRACTORS have got to work on the eagerly awaited £56 million Newtown bypass.

Machinery this week moved on to the site of the road which will put an end to traffic chaos on one of the main routes through the region.

Contractors Alun Griffiths Ltd started on tree and hedge clearance work to make way for where a roundabout will be situated which will link the bypass with the existing route into town. It is expected work will be completed by March 2018. Campaigners for the bypass say it is needed to tackle congestion and boost the Mid Wales economy.

They say the new route will also improve school safety, mean better response times for the emergency services and support tourism in the region. Glyn Davies, MP for Montgomeryshire, said it was a "prestigious day" for the area.

Russell George, AM for Montgomeryshire, said he was delighted that actual construction had now started.

Men face trial over town attack

TWO men are to stand trial in connection with an attack on an Oswestry man in January.

Telmo Bernardo, 18, of Glau Gors, Caia Park, Wrexham and Luke Cross, 22, of Sutton Coldfield, appeared at Stafford Crown Court by video link from prison last week.

They denied charges of conspiracy to commit murder, making threats to kill and cause criminal damage at Castletfields, Oswestry.

A man suffered stab wounds in an incident in the town on January 23.

The case was adjourned to April 29 for a further plea and hearing to consider evidence. A provisional trial date has been set for July 4.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Spring craft fair set to be staged

THE first of three spring craft fairs will be held in Welshpool this weekend.

Welshpool Town Council will host the event in the town hall's Corn Exchange.

Stalls range from handmade greetings cards to driftwood crafts, from jewellery to textiles, all created by independent local craft workers and artists.

The sale will take place on Saturday from 9am to 4pm. Admission is free and refreshments will be on sale in aid of the Stroke Association.

More craft fairs are planned for April 9 and May 14. Stalls cost £10 and some are still available for both sales.

To book a table contact the Town Clerk's Office on (01938) 553142 or email town.clerk@welshpooltown-council.gov.uk

Housing group is good workplace

A HOUSING association which operates in Powys has been named one of the top companies to work for by The Sunday Times.

Newydd Housing Association, which has nearly 100 staff, was placed 13th in The Sunday Times Best Companies To Work For 2016.

Appearing in the Best Not-for-Profit Organisations to Work For list, Newydd has gone up 14 places in this annual ranking of Britain's happy and motivated workplaces.

More than 1,300 businesses and organisations registered to take part in the surveys.

Newydd ranked in the top 10 in factors such as wellbeing, work and home life balance as well as giving something back to the community.

Talks hear of residents' concerns on healthcare

Report by Naomi Penrose

ONE of the biggest concerns for Mid Wales patients is the Future Fit healthcare service shake-up over the border in Shropshire.

That was the view expressed by Jack Evershed, co-chair of the Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative, at a meeting at Welshpool Town Hall where the future of healthcare in Mid Wales was discussed.

Mr Evershed said: "The big worry for patients in the Welshpool area is what's happening over the border."

"Of course we don't have any direct influence on what happens in England but we want to come up with solutions which will make life easier for patients over here who rely on those services. For example the possibility of secondary care providers working in the area so people won't be needing to travel far from home."

Mr Evershed also said one of the key aims of the collaborative is to get the English and Welsh health boards working together. Dr Sue Fish, clinical programme director, said: "There's great strength in the collaboration especially in rural areas. Whereas in urban areas they've got a vision which is very much put everything in a centre but that can't be the case for rural areas with everything being so far away."

Dr Fish said main concerns across the region included the worries about the Shropshire Future Fit health shake-up and GPs in community care.

Welshpool county councillor Francesca Jump, who attended the meeting, said she hoped the meeting "was not just a box-ticking exercise".

New lorry delivered to recycling centre



Tommy Winter, Graham Waters, Neil Barnfield, Sue Packer and Les Jacks

A RECYCLING centre has increased its operation and work-force thanks to the delivery of a new £84,000 lorry.

The purchase of the DAF vehicle means that Cae Post in Trewern, near Welshpool, which operates in the Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Welshpool, Newtown, Llanidloes and Brecon areas, will see an increase of available capacity. The new truck will be used to collect paper, cardboard, plastics including film, glass, metals and textiles.

Cae Post is a social enterprise that provides work and training for people with disabilities or who are disadvantaged in the job market, giving them the same opportunity of contributing to their community through work as anyone else.

Sue Packer, general manager of Cae Post, said: "This smaller vehicle will be able to access more difficult locations, such as narrow high streets where traditionally a 26 tonne vehicle struggles."

Tommy Winter, recycling operative at Cae Post, Graham Waters from Greenhouse, Neil Barnfield from Garwood Europe, Sue Packer and Les Jacks from Cae Post were on hand to welcome the new lorry.

Top award is given to crisis service

A FAMILY crisis centre has received a prestigious award for its work in helping domestic abuse victims.

The High Sheriff's Award 2016 has been awarded to Montgomeryshire Family Crisis Centre for its work in providing a specialist, comprehensive service for anyone experiencing or affected by domestic abuse.

High Sheriff of Powys, Mike Lewis said: "Montgomeryshire Family Crisis Centre do the most remarkable good work in Montgomeryshire for the victims of domestic abuse."

The centre has two refuges, one for women and children and one for men and children, and even though they are a small team they provide outreach support to all areas of rural Montgomeryshire. It also runs STAR (Safety Trust and Respect) Club which provides a fun, relaxed and confidential environment in which children and young people have the opportunity to explore their feelings around domestic abuse. Jane Stephens, centre team leader, said: "All of our staff are thrilled and delighted to receive this accolade, it recognises all the hard work they have done in continuing to support our clients."

Estate agent gets membership boost

PROPERTIES from throughout Mid Wales are to be promoted to potential buyers in London's exclusive Park Lane by one of the region's longest serving estate agents.

Morris, Marshall and Poole has been awarded exclusive membership of the Guild of Professional Estate Agents for Mid Wales. It means the estate agent has access to the Guild's national marketing network.

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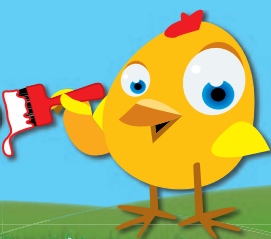
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WHILE most beverages fall in and out of fashion, a nice cup of tea has been a mainstay for the British for generations.

Sharing a cup of tea with a friend or two has never been as popular with hotels, restaurants and pubs in the Oswestry and Welshpool area offering a variety of teas.

The health benefits of tea have been

Report by Naomi Penrose

known for many years. And according to a recent study, drinking three or more cups of tea a day is as good for you as drinking plenty of water and may even have extra health benefits.

The work in the European Journal of Clinical Nutrition dispels the common belief that tea dehydrates.

Tea not only rehydrates as well as water does, but it can also protect against heart disease and some can-

cers. Experts believe flavonoids are the key ingredient in tea that promote health. These polyphenol antioxidants are found in many foods and plants, including tea leaves, and have been shown to help prevent cell damage. Enjoying a nice cup of tea is not just a British habit, many other countries have enjoyed the beverage for centuries. And the habit of a Brit enjoying a cup of tea went into space when British astronaut Tim Peake made sure one of the first things he did when he went into space was to enjoy a cuppa.

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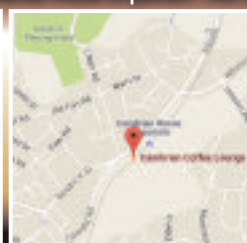
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Spotlight on Leg Street

Businesses provide a top class service



Leg Street and Salop Road in Oswestry have many local independent traders

BUSINESSES in Oswestry pride themselves on the great customer service they provide to clients and firms on the town's Leg Street and Salop Road lead the way when it comes to top class service.

Many clients go back to the businesses on Leg Street and Salop Road time and time again as they are impressed by the top service they enjoy.

Many of the firms on both streets are proud family-owned and independent businesses who take great pride in offering a friendly and helpful service to customers young and old.

Developed

That great service has ensured Oswestry has developed into a key retail and business centre in the region.

The town can trace its commercial history back over many centuries.

In fact it was back in 1190 that the town was granted the right to hold a market each Wednesday.

Markets have been important to life in Oswestry for generations.

The current town market is based in the Powis Hall on the Bailey Head, within walking distance of Leg Street.

The town's livestock market is based on Shrewsbury Road, which runs on from Salop Road.

Wherever you go in Oswestry you will be guaranteed of a great welcome and friendly service by the town's businesses. Enjoying a wide mix of retailers is a great way to spend some time and Leg Street and Salop Road have that mix in abundance.

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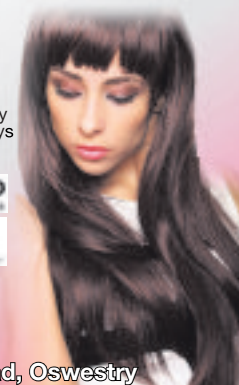
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Wide variety of firms add to retail experience

Report by Naomi Penrose

WHEN it comes to seeking the best specialist advice or first class services there is no place better to visit than Oswestry.

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Salop Road and Leg Street have developed to become two of the town's busiest streets over the years and have played an important role in the commercial life of Oswestry for many years.

The importance of the streets to the town's retail experience is one of the main reasons many of the town's leading firms have chosen to set up shop there.

The roads have acted as main thoroughfares for the town for many years and the businesses on them have added to the success of Oswestry throughout the generations.



Salop Road and Leg Street in Oswestry provide a variety of businesses

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Mar-16	640d M Sport Coupe	Alpine White	£69,994.64	£49,950	£20,044.64	0% APR
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Chamber to host seminar on security

OSWESTRY Chamber of Commerce is hosting a seminar on cyber security at its members' meeting and annual general meeting on April 6.

The seminar is sponsored by the local Barclays team and will be delivered by one of the bank's Digital Eagle experts.

Oswestry Chamber of Commerce chairman Jools Payne said businesses would find the cyber security information useful. She said: "Understanding the threats and how to mitigate them is an absolute must for anyone in business these days."

"With cyber breaches on the increase this free to attend 45-minute seminar and Q&A will give everyone an insight into the simple tools and techniques available to foil criminals targeting businesses large and small."

"Nobody can afford the business interruption and loss of data cyber criminals inflict so we are opening up the meeting to non-members."

"Barclays is generously providing refreshments for this event which starts at 6pm and ends at 6:45pm."

Mrs Payne also confirmed that key figures from Shropshire Council, Oswestry Town Council, the chamber as well as members of the local business community will meet on April 25 with BID UK to explore whether the conditions are right to launch a Business Improvement District (BID) for Oswestry.

The meeting will be attended by Councillor Steve Charmley, Deputy Leader Shropshire Council. Nomination papers for the chamber's annual general meeting next month will come out next week. The chamber's executive management team met yesterday (Wednesday) to confirm those officers and committee members seeking re-election for 2016/17.

Failed council company cost taxpayers £200k

Report by Dominic Robertson

FAILED Shropshire Council venture ip&e has cost taxpayers nearly £200,000 since it was set up in 2012.

The figure has been revealed in a report which details the findings of the council review into ip&e. The report was considered by the authority's cabinet last month, when it took the decision to instruct the company's directors to wind the firm up owing to poor performance.

The report says the direct cost of ip&e has been "approximately £190,000", but that additional costs have come through providing support. The value of those additional costs is not revealed.

The company, which has 284 seconded council staff and 18 directly employed staff, has been responsible for providing marketing and public relations work, public health, and business support and regulatory services – including planning staff.

The report confirms that ip&e's costs for 2015/16 were £613,937, and that income from Shropshire Council contracts was covering 94 per cent of the company's overheads, with only six per cent coming through contracts with non-council firms.

The company was set up in May 2012 by former council leader and Oswestry South Councillor Keith Barrow, with the intention of selling council services to other authorities and the private sector as a means of raising money. Mr Barrow left the council in December.

Brewery showcases its Welsh stout



From left, Pam Honeyman, from the brewery and Delyth Humphreys

LIKE taking coals to Newcastle, a Mid Wales brewery has taken its stout to the Irish.

Monty's Brewery was one of the companies attending a Food and Drink Trade Development visit in Dublin and celebrated St David's Day promoting its Welsh stout in the home of the best known porter beer.

Sales representative Delyth Humphreys, 21, from Abermule, said the three-day mission was her first-ever trip to the Emerald Isle. She said: "We were sure that the Irish buyers would like our Welsh stout, Mid-night, which is lighter than some stouts and has a great flavour."

"We were promoting our range of Monty's Ales, especially Masquerade, because it is gluten-free and there is a big gluten-free market in Ireland. I met buyers from Ireland at the show and it was great to be selling our quality Welsh products in Ireland on St David's Day."

Russ Honeyman, owner of Monty's Brewery, who is responsible for exports and logistics alongside his wife, head brewer Pam, said: "Along with other food and drink companies of Wales, we took our produce which includes four of our beers to Dublin. You don't have to be Irish to enjoy stout or to brew it. There are great Celtic ties between Ireland and Wales and we are hoping that this trade mission will be a great opportunity to add to our brand's exports."

Development accelerating says expert

PROPERTY development in the Oswestry area is accelerating as 2016 moves on – with farm diversification a major growth area.

That's the view of legal specialists at law firm, Lanyon Bowdler, who say the firm's Oswestry office has had a very busy first quarter of 2016.

Emma Wilde, commercial property and agriculture lawyer, said: "We have been working closely with a number of local developers in connection with land acquisitions, option agreements and building contracts."

"One client who is very active is Saxony Limited, a developer based in Shrewsbury which specialises in the provision of first-class developments with a particular focus on affordable housing."

"Saxony has recently completed sites in Baschurch and Shrewsbury and has a number of ongoing projects which we are assisting with."

"We are also currently acting for Pickstock Homes in the sales of its newly-built properties at their attractive development at Irvine Gardens in St Martins, and Primoris Homes Ltd, another local developer client with whom we are working on a number of exciting schemes for 2016."

"We are seeing evidence of a resurgent property development sector across all our offices."

Produce celebrated

TWO Oswestry businesses are joining forces to celebrate local food.

Stonehouse Brewery at Weston will launch its 2016 Sweeney Mountain Cider on Saturday with a pop up restaurant and live music. Amber's Wood Fire Kitchen will be setting up its portable wood fired pizzas for the afternoon.

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Alternatively visit our website at www.perthyn.org.uk to download an application pack.

Closing date: Thursday 31 March 2016 | Interview date: Friday 8 April 2016

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School stages open week for children

LAB coats and Les Miserables will be the order of the day when a school hosts free workshops for potential pupils.

Adcote School has organised activities including a science masterclass and a drama workshop with West End performers and directors as part of an open week.

The first event will see the school at Little Ness, near Oswestry, open its doors on Saturday for girls and their parents to view the facilities and meet teachers from 9.30am to 12.30pm. The morning includes a workshop for girls in Years 5 to 9 focusing on dance, drama and musical theatre. Performing arts teachers who have appeared in and directed national tours and West End productions will lead the session.

A science showcase on Tuesday will link into British Science Week and involve an energy science master class for Year 5 and 6 pupils and their parents.

There will also be a science lecture, demonstrations and interactive experiments, along with afternoon tea, to give families a taste of what the school can offer. People will be able to see the school in action and meet staff and pupils at a further open day on the May Bank Holiday from 9am to 4pm.

Headmaster Gary Wright said the open week activities reflected the commitment to providing an all round education.

"Our aim is to give everyone the chance to excel, be it academically, on the sports field, in music or performing arts and the open events are an opportunity for potential pupils and their families to find out about all that Adcote has to offer, whether as a day or boarding pupil," he said. To register for the open day or activities, email admissions@adcoteschool.co.uk or contact 01939 260202.

Police issue thefts warning

CRIMINALS have preyed on older shoppers in a series of distraction thefts in Shropshire – including in Oswestry.

Shoppers have been asked for directions to a local hospital, while thieves take their purses or cash cards from their bags. Police are urging people to take care of their handbags, purses and wallets and to keep valuable items secure, particularly at checkouts and cash machines.

An incident happened on February 10 in the car park of Sainsbury's in Oswestry.

The victim, a woman in her 60s, paid with her card at the checkout and believed that there was someone behind her. She got into her car and was approached by a man who asked her for directions to a hospital.

She got out of her car to show the directions on the man's phone and returned to find her purse missing from her bag. When she called to cancel her card she found an unsuccessful attempt had been made to use it at the cash point at the supermarket.

The man was described as white, in his late thirties, with dark short cropped hair. Police say possibly spoke with a Polish accent and was wearing black trousers with rips in the knees.

Anyone who sees anything suspicious of this nature is urged to call 101.

Group given arts funding

A £750,000 funding boost has been handed to arts organisations in Mid Wales.

Among the groups to benefit will be Arts Connection in Llanfyllin which will receive £62,999 towards its outreach work in the community from the Arts Council of Wales.

Arts manager Sian Walters, said: "We are very relieved that the Arts Council has not cut its grants this year.

"We are a small organisation but we believe we give value for money because of the outreach work we do across north Powys and into north Wales."

Arts Connection has a wide variety of projects from a film festival and an arts eisteddfod to workshops and weekly arts courses. Councillor Graham Brown, Powys County Council's cabinet member for cultural services, said: "At a time of considerable financial pressure it is vital that our arts and cultural establishments are able to attract external finance and continue to perform at the highest standards for our county residents.

Mad Jack's 19th century cups sell well at auction



John "Mad Jack" Mytton, the Shropshire eccentric famed for his wild antics

CUPS bearing the name of an infamous Shropshire aristocrat have sold for six times what was expected at auction.

The twin-handled 19th century cups, thought to belong to "Mad Jack" Mytton of Halston Hall, Whittington, near Oswestry, sold for £640, though they were only expected to make £100.

The cups came from the Linley Hall estate, once the home of the More family – which had links to the Myttons – and the residence of

former Ludlow MP Sir John Jasper More who died in 1987.

A rare 18th century Bow porcelain model of The Fortune Teller grabbed the top price from the Linley Hall collection however, selling for £11,000 at the auction held at Hall's Battlefield saleroom in Shrewsbury, when it had only been estimated at £1,200.

Caroline Dennard, European ceramics specialist at Hall's, said: "The entire Linley Hall collection did fantastically, it really soared.



Cups bearing the name of John "Mad Jack" Mytton sold for £640

"We only put Mad Jack's cups on for £80 to £100 because one of them was really damaged but I think it was the local interest and history that made them so popular.

"And we're pleased to say they will be staying in Shropshire."

John Mytton of Halston, also known as Mad Jack, was an aristocrat and MP for Shrewsbury, notorious for his eccentricity and outlandish stunts, from riding a bear through his drawing room to jumping a horse over the

heads of people eating their dinner. The cups were bought by the Jack Mytton Inn at Hindford, near Whittington, which is named after the near-legendary figure. The cups bear his name and each has a crouching frog inside, which would have been revealed to the surprise of the drinker as the contents were consumed.

More than 200 further treasures from Linley Hall were expected to fetch £1.5 million when they went under the hammer at Christie's in London yesterday (Wednesday).

Students hear of horror of the Holocaust on visit



The students outside the notorious Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp



The students met Holocaust survivor Monika Goldwasser during their trip to Poland

Report by Naomi Penrose

THE horror of the Holocaust was spelt out to Sixth Form students from The Marches School in Oswestry when they visited the Nazi death camps in Poland.

The teenagers were joined by students from Sir John Talbot's School in Whitechurch in the moving visit to Poland.

The students stayed in Krakow during their four-day trip where they learnt all about the history of the city.

On their second day, the group were given a tour of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. Here, they were given an insight into the true horror of the Holocaust and the enormous scale of death and destruction that occurred during the Second World War. The final day gave the students an opportunity to discover more about pre-war Jewish life in Krakow and a chance to meet Holocaust survivor Monika Goldwasser at the Galicia Museum. She survived the Holocaust by being smuggled out of her ghetto in 1941. Her parents, knowing that they had no chance of surviving themselves, saved her life by taking her to a convent in the hope that she would never be traced and found. Monika told the students about how her adoptive Polish mother took her in even though she herself could have been sent to the death camps for helping a Jew.

She remained unaware of her Jewish heritage until she was 22 years old when her mother showed her a scrap of paper her birth parents had left. The group also visited the Oskar Schindler Museum, housed in the original factory where he saved Jewish people from the Nazi extermination camps. His story was later made into a Steven Spielberg movie.



Monika Goldwasser spoke to the students



Students in an area used by Steven Spielberg in the film Schindler's List

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Helen Parry from Cross Lanes is happy to be back on solid ground



Helen Parry from Cross Lanes abseils down Chirk Castle



Bruce Houston from Gaia Adventures helps one of the abseilers

Abseilers at castle

Report by Pam Kingsley

VISITORS got a rare bird's eye view of a famous tourist attraction when they were invited to abseil from the top of a tower at Chirk Castle.

The one-off event took place at the 900-year-old castle as the first in a series of pop-up adventures across the country to mark Wales Year of Adventure.

During the day 40 brave visitors, who had to sign up in advance, climbed to the top of the Bachelor Tower before stepping over the edge under the supervision of staff from Snowdonia-Active. On the way down they stopped off for a break on a portaledge to take in the breathtaking views on both sides of Offa's Dyke.

Adam Booth, a volunteer at the castle, said: "We had visitors and staff and some senior managers from the trust take part. We had a really good response to the event. It's the first time we've done this, so we didn't really know what to expect as it's a one off event. But we were fully booked up.

"It was a nice day for it, a little bit grey but with good visibility. Even just the view from the tower is fantastic, so the abseilers had a great view."

Justin Albert, National Trust director for Wales, was one of the first to take the plunge. He said: "We want to help everyone make the most of our incredible places across Wales and one of the best ways to enjoy and connect with them is through adventure.

"From enjoying breathtaking walks to stargazing in our inky dark skies, to a kayak around the beautiful Welsh coast, the National Trust provides the perfect venue to fulfil the adventurer in you."

Clwyd South Assembly Member Ken Skates also took part in the abseil.



Rhian Jones from Ffroncyllte shows no fear as she takes the plunge. Photos: Jamie Ricketts.



Abseilers enjoyed an incredible view as they made their way down



Clwyd South AM Ken Skates and Justin Albert took part in the castle abseil



Safety was of paramount importance during the abseil



It's a thumbs-up from Ken Skates, AM for Clwyd South, who took part in the abseil

↑Property

YOUR WEEKLY GUIDE TO HOME BUYING AND LETTING



Modern property is an ideal first home

An ideal first home or buy-to-let, 6 Aston Way, Oswestry is a modern semi-detached house with a garage and parking.

In need of some upgrading, and conveniently positioned for the local facilities in Cabin Lane, it is for sale through JJ Dell & Co at £119,500 with no chain.

With gas central heating and double glazing it has a covered porch, an entrance hall with stairs off, a living room with a brick fireplace with a gas fire and carpeting, a kitchen with modern fitted units comprising a stainless steel sink unit, matching

wall and base cupboards with worktops, integrated hob, oven and extraction, plumbing for washing machine, an under-stairs cupboard and a rear patio door.

Upstairs is a galleried landing, bedroom one which overlooks the frontage and has a fitted wardrobe cupboard and boiler cupboard and carpeting, bedroom two which overlooks the rear and has a fitted wardrobe cupboard and carpeting. The family bathroom has a coloured suite including a bath with an electric shower and screen, low level WC and a pedestal wash hand basin.

Outside the property has benefit of ample off street parking and a front lawn. To the rear is a good-sized garage, patio area and lawn. The property is situated on a modern estate being within reasonable walking distance of the local shopping facilities in Cabin Lane and Unicorn Road. There is a regular bus service into the town's shopping centre. Oswestry is convenient for the A5 link roads to Shrewsbury, Telford, Wrexham, Chester and the railway station at Gobowen. For further information contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 or visit www.jjdell.co.uk



Substantial family home by waterside has fishing rights

Highclere, Milford Road, Newtown, is a substantial waterside family home with the rarity of 0.75 of an acre of gardens within the town centre. The property is for sale through McCartneys for £400,000. Highclere offers superb five bedroom accommodation and is complemented by ample parking, outbuildings and grounds with river frontage on a picturesque stretch of the Severn. Gently sloping paths and steps lead to the lower lawns, the river, an original air-raid shelter and a sizeable log cabin set among the woodland. There is also a personal river-side jetty giving access to the water ideal for launching canoes and taking up the fishing rights that go with the property. Contact McCartneys on 01686 623123.



Stunning conversion enjoys fantastic countryside views

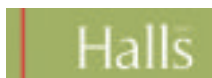
A stunning detached barn conversion with flexible accommodation, View Barn, Marton near Welshpool, has delightful grounds and some of the most spectacular views in the area. The property is on the market through Strutt & Parker with a guide price of £525,000. Accommodation includes reception hall, kitchen/dining/sitting room, utility room, sitting room and four/five bedrooms. There is also a games room/bedroom five, three bath/shower rooms, one which is ensuite, and a study/snug. Outside there is a double garage, log stores and garden. View Barn is a beautifully converted part-stone, part-timber property occupying the most fantastic elevated position above the village of Marton, with phenomenal south facing views towards the Stiperstones. For more information contact Strutt & Parker on 01743 284200.



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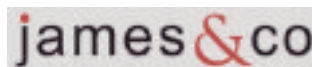
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Smallholding is in an idyllic rural location

A smallholding in an idyllic rural location, Ty Cerrig at Croesaubach has outstanding views of the Shropshire plain, yet is just three miles from Oswestry. It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson with a guide price of £350,000. The property is a spacious three-bedroomed detached cottage standing in mature gardens, a range of useful outbuildings, stables and field shelters together with about 10.75 acres of excellent pasture land located in a ring fence immediately to the rear of the house. With some original features, the cottage has double glazing and oil central heating, an entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room/WC, boot room, three bedrooms and a bathroom. The well-maintained outbuildings include a double garage, livestock shed, stable, barn and a separate field shelter. The land is split into conveniently-sized paddocks. Call Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 or visit www.bowensonandwatson.co.uk



Bungalow sits on outskirts of popular village

A fine detached bungalow on the outskirts of a village, Oakdene, Oak Farm Lane, West Felton can be found down a quiet country lane. Set well back from the road and with a tarmac driveway with ample parking, it is for sale through JJ Dell & Co with offers in the region of £259,500. It has a porch and entrance hall, living room, a modern fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and a shower room. Outside is a drive through car port with a heavy steel frame and concrete tiled roof. The front garden has a lawn and an ornamental pool and the private rear garden has a lawn and a modern timber framed workshop/garage with light and power. There is also a patio area, store and oil tank. For further information contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 or visit www.jjdell.co.uk



Home with Hidden Treasures



While first impressions leave no doubt that Highclere is a substantial family home, this property has all manner of hidden treasures to discover.

Inside the property rooms are bright and spacious. Character features including a working fireplace and parquet flooring are combined with high specification modern bathrooms and kitchen, making this a great family home. Tastefully decorated with a neutral colour palette, the new owners will easily be able to put their own stamp on the property without any major work.

If you enjoy entertaining then a viewing at Highclere is a must. Set back from the road, there will be no problem with parking as the drive can accommodate up to 12 cars and there is even room for a marquee in the gardens.

It's the grounds where many of Highclere's hidden treasures can be found.

Firstly, the house stands on a plot of three quarters of an acre, impressive given its proximity to Newtown centre. With views to the picturesque 13th century tower of St Mary's Church and the Severn Valley, this garden has plenty more to excite potential buyers. How about an original, restored potting shed with working fireplace, a tree house, an original air raid shelter and a waterside jetty for starters?

The restored potting shed has been totally transformed by the current owners and is now a substantial outdoor building. With new timber cladding, as well as a genuine limestone floor and the original feature fireplace, it can be used for a multitude of uses including games room, man cave or luxury potting shed.

For those that just want to relax, a spot of fishing or a chilled glass of wine on the jetty makes your own garden feel like a real-life holiday retreat.

There's no need to worry about flooding either with the house in an elevated position it's never been an issue.

Hidden pockets of the garden are perfect for a summer picnic, without ever having to leave home. Indeed with its large garden, vegetable plot and space for chickens, Highclere feels like a real country hideaway with all the convenience of town living.

Discover Highclere's hidden treasures with a viewing through McCartneys in Newtown.



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Ardmillan Close Oswestry £215,000

- A rare opportunity to purchase a Detached 4 Bedroom Bungalow
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- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom 4/Dining Room,
- 3 further Bedrooms and Bathroom.
- Good size rear garden including patio area.
- Enclosed lawn and a long driveway leading to a single garage.
- Gas central heating, double glazing and CCTV are installed



Laburnum Drive Oswestry £136,995

- A deceptively spacious 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached House
- Maintained to a high standard throughout
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Dining Room, Utility & Cloaks
- 3 good size Bedrooms and a Family Bathroom.
- A large enclosed rear garden, further lawned garden and driveway
- Gas central heating and double glazing are installed throughout



Maes Yr Ysgol Llanfechain £174,995

- A delightful 2 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Situated on a small residential cul-de-sac
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Rear Porch
- 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Lawned gardens to front and rear.
- A tarmac driveway and garage provide ample off-road parking
- Oil central heating and uPVC double glazed windows and doors



Maplehurst Drive Oswestry £129,995

- A delightful 2 Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow
- Situated on a good size corner plot in a quiet residential area
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Front and rear gardens with large tarmac driveway
- Gas central heating and uPVC double glazing
- EPC Rating D. NO CHAIN



Oak Drive St Martins £117,500

- A well proportioned 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- Large corner plot with private driveway, garage and gardens
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- 3 good size Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Gas central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating



Hayes View Oswestry £315,000

- Executive Detached Family Home situated in large plot in a private cul-de-sac
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Lounge With double doors leading into Dining Rm, Conservatory
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room overlooks the garden to the rear
- Utility Area leading directly into the integrated Double Garage
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite & 3 other Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- Well maintained and secure South facing rear garden
- Large tarmac driveway with views towards open countryside.



Fitzgwarine Drive Whittington £224,995

- An immaculately presented 4 bedroom Detached Family Home
- Situated in a sought after location in the popular village of Whittington
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Rm, Family Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility, Cloakroom,
- Master Bedroom (en-suite), 3 further bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Good size rear garden, driveway and single garage
- Double glazing and gas central heating together with a burglar alarm



Nant Lane Morda £186,950

- Deceptively spacious Dormer Bungalow in an elevated position
- Hall, Lounge, Study, Kitchen, Bedrm 1
- Bedroom 2/Dining Rm, Ground Floor Bathrm
- 2 1st Floor Bedrms, adjoining garage & cloaks
- The gardens extend around the property
- D/G, Gas C/H, cavity wall & roof insulation. EPC 'D'



Y Ddol Penybontfawr £144,995

- A spacious 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached House situated in a popular village location.
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Living Room, Kitchen/Diner
- 3 Bedrooms and Family Bathroom.
- Good size rear garden with large decked area and views over surrounding countryside.
- To the side of the property is a driveway providing ample off-road parking
- Oil central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating



The Meads Weston Rhyn £114,995

- A spacious 3 Bedroom End-of-Terrace House
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, large Conservatory
- Kitchen/Dining Room, 3 Beds and Shower Room
- Good size rear garden, driveway & garage
- Gas central heating, uPVC double glazing
- EPC Rating D



Weston Road Morda £219,000

- Spacious 4 Bedroom Detached Family Property in a popular residential area
- Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Conservatory, Master Bedroom (en-suite)
- 3 further Bedrooms and Family Bathroom.
- Generous outside space with large patio area extending to rear and side
- Large lawned garden, single garage and parking
- Gas fired central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating



Weston Road Morda £123,950

- PRICES FROM £123,950
- Oakwood Grange is a small residential development
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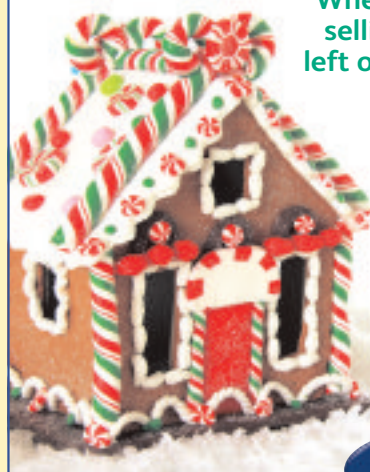
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At Bowen Son and Watson we place our clients first. You can expect a friendly, professional and personal service. Contact your local Bowen Son and Watson office to arrange a free market appraisal.



Superior detached executive home has four bedrooms

A superior detached executive home, 8 Woodland Way, Newtown, has well appointed accommodation. The property is on the market through McCartneys with offers over £199,000. The home has two receptions rooms, kitchen, utility, four bedrooms, ensuite shower room and bathroom. Outside the property there is a garage and store room. The property is double glazed and has gas fired central heating. The home has easily maintained landscaped grounds. The property sits in a commanding position on a popular development on the outskirts of Newtown and benefits from far reaching rooftop views. For more information contact McCartneys on 01686 623123.



Eye-catching home with outstanding views

Outstanding views to the Breidden Hills bestow the namesake of Breidden View on this eye-catching five bedroom house. Breidden View is found in the hamlet of Grimpo. Ground floor accommodation is well laid out with entrance hall, four reception rooms, plus kitchen and utility. The first floor provides five bedrooms while the master bedroom has en-suite bathroom and balcony. Outside, immediately around the house there is a cottage style garden. There is a double garage with adjacent workshop/garage, plus large gardens totalling more than half an acre. Grimpo is a rural hamlet to the north-east of West Felton near Oswestry. Breidden View is marketed by Balfours with a guide price of £485,000. For more information call 01743 353511 or visit www.balfours.co.uk



Executive home for sale with no chain

Being close to good village facilities, including main line rail services, a mini supermarket, post office, pub and golf course, 2 Bryn Y Castell Gardens, St Martins Road, Gobowen is a modern detached home ideal for family living. It is for sale through JJ Dell & Co for offers in the region of £244,995 with no chain. Accommodation includes a porch, a reception hall, a ground floor WC, a kitchen, a utility room, a dining room with sliding glazed doors to a conservatory, master bedroom en-suite, three further bedrooms and a bathroom. The property is constructed of brick under a tiled roof; the accommodation being well appointed throughout, with UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. For further information contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 or visit www.jjdell.co.uk



Stunning residence has 12 acres of land

A stunning country residence with 12 acres of land, situated in a private, rural location under five miles from Oswestry, is on offer with agents Halls for offers over £665,000. Stone House Farm, Selattyn is a period farmhouse with characterful accommodation which has been tastefully renovated to provide a luxury family home, which comes with pasture paddocks and woodland, a manege, stable blocks and out-buildings. Stone House Farm has a reception hall, fitted kitchen/ family room, pantry, utility, ground floor shower room, boot room, dining room and garden room. Both the family room and garden room have French doors to take advantage of the gardens. On the first floor there is a master bedroom with a dressing room, three further bedrooms and a luxury bathroom. Viewing is by appointment with Halls' Oswestry office on 01691 670320.





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Home with three bedrooms is immaculately presented

An immaculately presented three bedroom home, 2 Nant Y Felin, Abermule sits on a quiet cul de sac offering a buyer the opportunity to move straight in and make themselves at home. It is on the market through McCartneys for £169,999. The accommodation and gardens have been extremely well maintained and viewing is highly recommended to fully appreciate the property. The accommodation briefly comprises of three bedrooms, lounge, kitchen/dining room, utility and bathroom. Gardens to front and rear are of a good size and there is ample parking with both driveway and garaging. For more details contact McCartneys on 01686 623123.



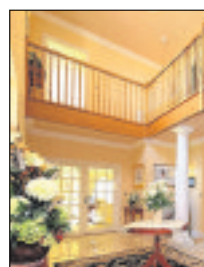
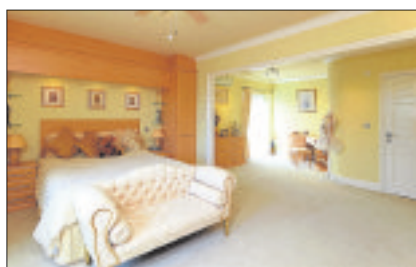
Eye-catching residence is full of charm

The Old Vicarage at Dolfor, Newtown, comprises a charming and typical example of a Victorian period ecclesiastical residence, having been constructed in approximately 1880. It is for sale for £595,000 through Halls. The accommodation offers two formal reception rooms set either side of the entrance hall, both with high ceilings and attractive bay windows. There is a further snug/study, large kitchen with pantry and rear conservatory/sun room, as well as a WC, on the ground floor. The first floor boasts five bedrooms, three with en-suite, and a family bathroom. For more details contact Halls on 01938 555552.



Detached property is in a prestigious area

This spacious four-bedroomed detached home in Hayes View, Oswestry lies on a large plot in a private cul-de-sac in one of the town's most prestigious residential areas. It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson with offers in the region of £315,000. The property has spacious and flexible living accommodation. The home's accommodation includes a porch, a large entrance hall with stairs off and under-stairs storage and there is a cloakroom. The property has a lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room and an adjoining utility area with a door leading directly into the integrated double garage. On the first floor of the property there is a master bedroom with en-suite and three other bedrooms all served by a family bathroom. For further information contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 or visit www.bowensonandwatson.co.uk



Magnificent home stands in landscaped gardens

Standing in landscaped grounds of around 1.5 acres, Benvenuti, Morton, Oswestry has magnificently proportioned accommodation extending to some 6,600 square feet. It is for sale through Halls at £995,000. It has a portico-style porch, a superb reception hall, a WC, a triple aspect lounge with French doors, a games room, a day room and a kitchen. There is also a back hall, a home office, a ground floor shower room, a master bedroom with fitted furniture, a dressing room with French doors out to a balcony and an en-suite, master suite two with French doors out to a balcony, fitted furniture and an en-suite, two further bedrooms and a family bathroom. There is also a laundry room, sauna, bedroom five en-suite, a second floor playroom/hobby room and a garage with remote controlled doors. Outside there are gardens and grounds including an orchard, two summer houses, a pond and two driveways. Contact Halls on 01691 670320.



Have you seen my Daddy?



My daddy's one of those nice men that collects your recycling. He empties your bins and boxes every week - even when it's snowing or pitch black.

Daddy says he has to walk eight miles every day - and cross the road 30,000 times a year. That's a lot. No wonder he's tired when he gets home.



Mummy says it's dangerous too.



Some people speed past daddy's bin lorry when he's working in the road. Or beep their horns and shout.

That's not very nice. So if you see my daddy or the flashing lights on the lorry, slow down and wait until it's safe to pass. Next time it's bin day, please look out for my daddy so he can look after me.

Thank you,
Poppy aged 7



Cinema listings

GRIMSBY (15)



Too lewd – 4/10
Sacha Baron Cohen plays Nobby Butler, a football hooligan who lives in Grimsby. He has been separated from his younger brother Sebastian (Mark Strong), unaware that his sibling has become a debonair secret agent. When Sebastian is framed for murder the pair go on the run. Grimsby is crude and poorly structured, ricocheting between action and flashbacks.

LONDON HAS FALLEN (15)



Thrills and spills – 7/10
Two years after a fateful drone strike that was supposed to kill terrorist mastermind Aamir Barkawi, the British Prime Minister dies in his sleep. Statesmen and women from around the globe gather at short notice for the funeral. Aided by his son Kamran vengeance-seeking Barkawi dispatches a gun-toting militia to assassinate the world leaders.

THE FOREST (15)



Deathly bore – 2/10
Sara Price flies to Japan to search for her missing twin. Sara makes her way to a roadside hotel, where she befriends a reporter called Aiden. He offers to help search for the missing sibling in the company of professional guide Michi. Sara strays from the path to chase a phantom-like schoolgirl called Hoshiko, who may or may not be a product of her imagination.

TRIPLE 9 (15)



Mob handed – 8/10
High levels of testosterone course through the bulging veins of Triple 9. But at the heart of this man's world is venomous moll Irina Vlaslov (Kate Winslet), who takes charge of the Russian-Israeli mob while her husband Vassili (Igor Komar) languishes behind bars. She puts the squeeze on private security contractor Michael Belmont (Chiwetel Ejiofor) and his team of dirty cops.

Style over substance

Review by Damon Smith

WHEN the mighty fall, they fall hard. Writer-directors Joel and Ethan Coen, who each have four Academy Awards, on the mantelpiece and were nominees again this year for their script for Bridge Of Spies, descend from the filmmaking firmament with a sickening thud.

Hail, Caesar!, the brothers' screwball valentine to the golden age of 1950s Hollywood, is a deeply disappointing exercise in period style over substance, characterisation and wit.

It's hard to believe that the mercurial siblings who gave us The Big Lebowski, Fargo, O Brother, Where Art Thou? and No Country For Old Men could be responsible for this flimsy whimsy.

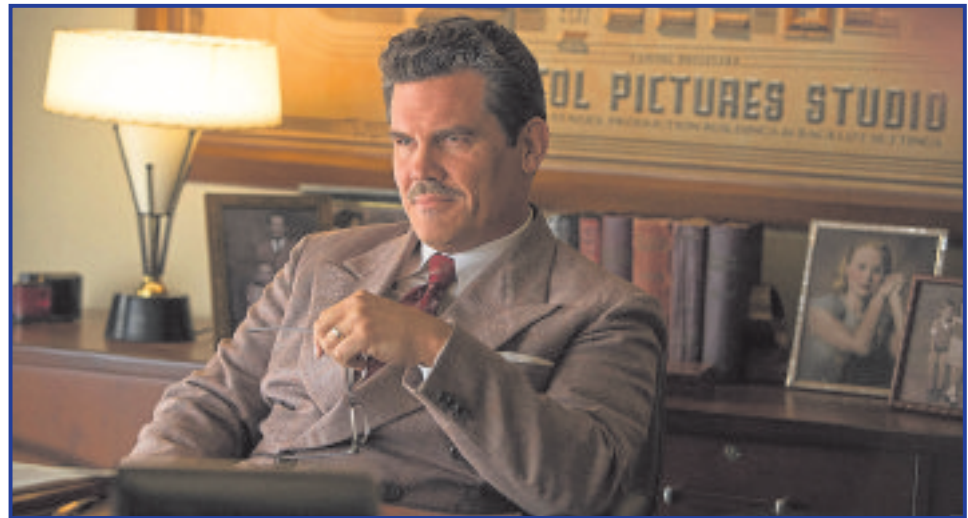
Admittedly, there are a couple of stand-out musical sequences that quicken the pulse and remind us of the Coens' genius.

These crescendos are spliced and shoe-horned into the film's trailer, which runs to a trim two and a half minutes, and is infinitely more enjoyable than the bloated 106-minute misfire that has been haphazardly bolted together in the editing room.

As usual, the ensemble cast shimmers with comic talent, but here, almost everyone is squandered in thinly sketched roles.

Eddie Mannix (Josh Brolin) masterminds production at Capitol Pictures, keeping the tawdry secrets of his leading men and ladies out of rival gossip columns penned by twins Thora and Thessaly Thacker (Tilda Swinton).

He also has to massage egos on and off the set of the studio's big budget epic, Hail, Caesar! – A Tale Of The Christ, starring mat-



Josh Brolin stars as Hollywood studio boss Eddie Mannix in Hail Caesar!

inee idol Baird Whitlock (George Clooney).

When a Communist group calling itself The Future kidnaps Baird, Eddie races against time to pay the 100,000 US dollar ransom and keep the abduction secret from the filmmaking community.

Meanwhile, Eddie must conceal the pregnancy of synchronised swimming actress DeeAnna Moran (Scarlett Johansson) and convince revered director Laurence

Laurentz (Ralph Fiennes) to cast singing Western dreamboat Hobie Doyle (Alden Ehrenreich) in his romantic period drama.

"My readers don't care about Hobie Doyle – he wears chaps!" remarks Thora Thacker coldly.

As the situation with Baird spirals out of control, Eddie calls upon the services of chain-smoking film editor CC Calhoun (Frances McDormand), agent Joseph Sil-

verman (Jonah Hill) and tap-dancing lead-

ing man Burt Gurney (Channing Tatum).

Hail, Caesar! is depressingly light on laughs and the Coens' trademark eccentricities. Some vignettes are stretched to the point of discomfort, such as Hobie's attempts to master one line of period dialogue. Even the woefully underused Tatum is reduced to dancing for his proverbial supper in a tight-fitting sailor's outfit.

Book reviews

POPPET GETS TWO BIG BROTHERS

By Paullina Simons
Published by Harper Collins

The pictures in this book were really beautiful and it reminded me a lot of the illustrations in some of Dick King Smith's Sophie books – though Poppet is a lot tidier! The story, however, wasn't that entertaining and I think for younger children might be a bit difficult to understand. I think the book is designed to show children how to cope with having siblings, but I think the way it is explained is a bit abstract for those in the age range the book is aimed at. Poppet is the young-



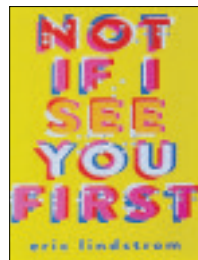
est of three and as she gets older realises she has to share time with her brothers, who have been non-existent, as far as she is concerned – though they were present in the background.

By Sophie Madden

NOT IF I SEE YOU FIRST

By Eric Lindstrom
Published by Harper Collins Children's Books

Authors who write for children of any age are a special breed, being able to tap into a vein of imagination and emotion that most of us lose as we get older. This story, a debut novel, is about a blind girl whose other senses have developed in order to compensate for her disability. Her father dies and she awards herself a gold star for every day she doesn't cry over her loss. When a boy who broke her heart reappears at school, she realises that, try as she might, she can't hide from her emo-



tions forever, and that running away from the past is impossible to do.

Set in America and written by an American, it's easy to read for girls aged between 10 and 15 years old.

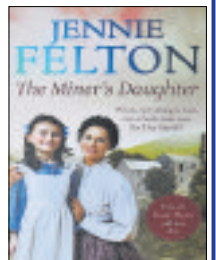
By Sally Bunn

THE MINER'S DAUGHTER

By Jennie Felton
Published by Harper

This is the latest tale in the Family of Fairley Terrace series which follows the fortunes, the lives, and the loves of the residents of a Somerset village in the late nineteenth century.

In this story we meet Annie Day, recently widowed following a mining disaster. Seeking support for herself and her two daughters, Annie views marriage to Algernon Pierce as the only answer to her problems. All is well for a while but as the years pass the behaviour of her youngest child, Lucy, gives Annie reasons to fear for the future.



A series of events begins to unfold which will alter the course of all their lives forever.

Easy to read and with plenty of engaging characters and a good sense of time and place.

By Sally Bunn



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The Battle of Britain memorial flight display



The Bob Jones Memorial Air Show attracts thousands of visitors

Popular air show will be flying high again

AN exciting array of some of the world's most famous planes will display at one of the region's most popular air shows.

The Bob Jones Memorial Air Show, which takes place annually at Welshpool Airport, will this year be held on Sunday, June 19, and organisers promise spectators are in for a treat with a host of impressive planes set to take to the skies.

Members of the show committee have released the first part of this year's line-up.

The line-up includes iconic World War Two bomber, Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress.

And organisers have revealed that for the first time, the show will have an Axis aircraft from World War Two making an appearance – a Messerschmitt BF109.

Continuing the World War Two theme, the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight will once more be displaying with the ever-popular Lancaster bomber, Spitfire and Hurricane.

Organisers say the Breitling Wing-Walkers are also back at the event too by popular demand. The group will be back with their show-stopping demonstration of aerobatics, and there will be an RAF Typhoon, which finished last year's show, at this year's event. Bob Pooler will also be demonstrating aerial trickery with his new mount, the Aviat Husky.

Martin Evans, organiser and spokesman for the show, which attracted around 12,000 people last year, said he is "extremely excited" by this year's bill.

He said: "To have iconic and historic aircraft the Boeing B-17 overhead Welshpool for the first time is quite a coup for the air show."

"I can't think of any other reason why one would've flown over Welshpool."

"The Wing Walkers are fantastic and the Typhoon is always amazing."

"The line-up is a really exciting one, and we haven't even completed it yet."

"There's more to come. I can't wait."

A Festival of Transport also takes place

SPECIAL REPORT

By Naomi Penrose

as part of the air show. Mr Evans said: "In my opinion we're the best little air show in the country."

"We take place on the same day as Cosford Air Show but we're a fraction of the price."

"We attract thousands of people every year and I think what we do is great for a little town."

"People can park for free at the Livestock and get a shuttle bus to the show."

"Everything tends to run smoothly and we're usually pretty lucky with the weather."

"Fingers crossed for this year."

Organisers of the show confirmed more announcements are due to be made to add to the already action-packed programme.

This year will be the ninth year in a row the air show has been held at the airbase.

It was renamed in 2012 after its founder, and owner of Welshpool Airport, Mr Jones, died in a plane crash.

Tickets for this year's show are on sale now at www.welshpoolairshow.co.uk

The Festival of Transport, which runs alongside the air show, takes visitors back in time with its wide selection of vehicles from yesteryear.

The vehicles on show don't just include cars, but also a collection of military vehicles, motorbikes, buses and many classic motors.

Among the regular exhibits is a Sentinel DG4 steam wagon tar sprayer.

Built in Shrewsbury in 1929 and supplied as a flatbed vehicle to AE Knox brickmakers of Erdington it spent many years hauling bricks around the Midlands.

In 1943 it was converted to a tar sprayer and later owned by Jones Bros of Ruthin who used it as such right up until it was laid up in 1984. It was the last commercially operated steam vehicle in the UK.

This well-known engine took part in the Sentinel Drivers Club road run from Glasgow to Shrewsbury in 2005.



An RAF Typhoon will be at this year's air show at Welshpool

Chance to win tickets to see famous railway tale



The Railway Children is a classic story

A VERY special film of children's classic, The Railway Children, is scheduled to steam into Wrexham – and Chronicle readers have a chance to win a family ticket to see it.

The production is the screen version of the award-winning theatre show first performed at the National Railway Museum in York in 2008 before touring the world.

The run starts at the Odeon cinema at the Eagles Meadow shopping centre on Easter Monday, March 28.

We have teamed up with the Odeon to offer readers the opportunity to win a family ticket for two adults and two

children to watch the Railway Children at the cinema.

It tells the story of how the comfortable lives of three Edwardian children, Bobby, Peter and Phyllis are shattered when their father is arrested on suspicion of betraying state secrets.

The children and their mother move from London to a modest cottage near a railway in the Yorkshire countryside. New friendships, adventures and terrifying dangers await. But the mystery remains – where is father, and is he ever coming back?

The York Theatre Royal production was masterminded by writer Mike Kenny and director Damian Cruden who took E Nesbit's 1906 novel – first published in instalments in The London Magazine – back to its Yorkshire roots.

The star of the show is the original locomotive seen in the famous film of

1970. The original film starred Jenny Agutter, Sally Thomsett and Gary Warren as the Waterbury children, Bobby, Phyllis and Peter, who relocate with their mother to rural Yorkshire – next to a famous railway line.

Odeon manager Andy Elvis said of Edith Nesbit's much-loved story: "Part of The Railway Children's popularity is its ability to appeal to a wide audience, as previous sell-out runs in York, Waterloo and Toronto have proved."

Tickets are on sale for the Odeon at Eagles Meadow via the website: www.odeon.co.uk/films/the-railway-children/16477/ To be in with a chance of winning the family ticket, send a postcard with your name, address and daytime telephone number to Oswestry and Border Chronicle, 14 Salop Road, Oswestry, SY11 2NU. Entries must reach us by Friday, March 18.

StarReaderTravel

For more information or for brochures contact the Shropshire Star Promotions Team
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London Theatre

Omega Holidays offer a superb portfolio of theatre breaks in London, managing the whole show package which includes travel, either by coach or rail, four-star accommodation and various price bands for each show. Self-drive breaks are also available to book.

Rail inclusive breaks – Two or three days

Saturday Night Theatre from £169.⁹⁵

Enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a selection of London hotels to choose from (supplements may apply) and rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday with plenty of free time in London.

The ticket is for a Saturday evening performance.

Theatre Showstopper from £239.⁹⁵

This popular theatre package, departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday returning on the Sunday.

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For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option, see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. The Saturday Night option includes a ticket for the show to see an evening performance (meal not included). Both breaks include a standard priced theatre ticket with the option to upgrade, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel.

Price includes:

- ✓ Return coach or rail travel
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- ✓ Single rooms subject to availability (supplement applies)

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Prices are per person (unless otherwise stated). Please read brochures/web pages for full description plus terms and conditions. Please note Star Reader Travel are unable to take bookings. Dates subject to availability. Coach pick up points offered: Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

"The from" price and price bands vary for each show
— see brochure/web page for details.

DAYS: 2 OR 3 DEPARTS: VARIOUS DATES





Casualty
9.35pm

The repercussions of the defibrillator accident continue to reverberate for Lofty, who must face the consequences of his actions by explaining the chain of events at a hearing. When the opportunity to help Lana arrives, he decides to skip his meeting and lend her a hand instead.



Queen Victoria's Children
6.30pm

The concluding episode focuses on the monarch's sons, examining how they struggled to assert themselves in the shadow of their father. It explores Victoria's difficult relationships with the eldest, Bertie, whose sexual indiscretions she blamed for having fatally weakened her husband's health.



Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway

The duo are joined by Craig David for the big finale of this week's show. Mel B interviews dogsitters in I'm a Celebrity, Get Out of Me Ear!, while Little Ant and Dec chat to Jennifer Lawrence and her The Hunger Games co-stars. Another player has the chance to win the ads.



Crufts 2016
7pm

Clare Balding hosts further coverage from the third day of the prestigious annual dog show, which this year is celebrating its 125th anniversary. Presenting live from the NEC in Birmingham, Clare is joined by Supervet Professor Noel Fitzpatrick to discuss advances in the field of canine health.



The Championship: Football League Tonight

Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches from the Championship, including Huddersfield Town v Burnley at the John Smith's Stadium, and Rotherham v Derby County at the New York Stadium.

BBC1

- 6.00 **Breakfast.**
10.00 **Saturday Kitchen Live.** Vera actress Brenda Blethyn faces food heaven or hell, courtesy of James Martin's kitchen-based collaborators Bryn Williams and Selin Kiazim. Plus, Olly Smith provides wine tips.
11.30 **Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking.** Dishes that are perfect for a party. Last in the series. (R)
12.00 **BBC News;** Weather.
12.10 **Football Focus.** Dan Walker looks ahead to the weekend's football, including Premier League and FA Cup sixth-round fixtures.
1.00 **Bargain Hunt.** David Harper and Mark Stacey guide two teams through the antiques fair at Shepton Mallet, Somerset, and Tim Wonnacott visits Stourhead, Wiltshire. (R)
2.00 **Homes Under the Hammer.** Lucy Alexander, Martin Roberts and Dion Dublin assess properties in Newcastle, Leyton in London, and Gainsborough in Lincolnshire before they sell at auction. (R)
3.00 **Flog It!** David Fletcher and Catherine Southon value antiques at Lulworth Castle in Dorset. Paul Martin also learns how Mary Anning started the craze for fossil-hunting. (R)
3.45 **Escape to the Country.** Alistair Appleton helps a couple search for a suitable rural home in Dorset who have a generous budget of £1.2 million. (R)
4.30 **Final Score.** A round-up of this afternoon's football results.
5.00 **BBC News.**
5.10 **Midlands Today;** Weather.
5.20 **Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup.** Everton v Chelsea (Kick-off 5.30pm). Gary Lineker presents coverage of the sixth-round tie at Goodison Park, as the sides battle it out for a place in the semi-finals.
7.30 **The Voice UK.** Paloma Faith, Boy George, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson begin the process of whittling their teams of eight down to three as the knock-out stage of the contest begins.
8.45 **The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List.** Retired Essex-based publicans Ray and Diane seek to win items from a wish-list that celebrates their 40 years of marriage. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws with Gaby Roslin.
9.35 **Casualty.** Lofty is called to attend a hearing following the defibrillator accident, but he decides to skip the meeting and help Lana deal with a dilemma instead.
10.25 **BBC News;** Weather.
10.45 **Match of the Day.** Highlights of the latest Premier League fixtures, including Norwich City v Manchester City at Carrow Road and Arsenal v West Bromwich Albion at the Emirates Stadium; **National Lottery Update.**
11.30 **FILM: The Ring (2002).** A journalist investigates teenage deaths linked to a videotape, which is rumoured to cause the demise of anyone who watches it. Horror remake, with Naomi Watts and Martin Henderson.
1.15 **Weather for the Week Ahead.**
1.20 **BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.15 **Animal Park.** Winston the rhino becomes a sperm donor. (R)
7.10 **Homes Under the Hammer.** Properties in Lincolnshire, south west London and Cumbria. (R)
8.10 **FILM: Station West (1948).** Western, starring Dick Powell.
9.40 **FILM: The Master of Ballantrae (1953).** Swashbuckling adventure, starring Errol Flynn.
11.10 **Natural World.** Profile of two 17-year-old reindeer herders. (R)
12.00 **Rick Stein's India.** Rick meets India's first MasterChef winner in Lucknow. Last in the series. (R)
1.00 **The Best Dishes Ever.** A selection of seafood dishes. (R)
1.30 **The Best Dishes Ever.** Party food. (R)
2.00 **FILM: An Ideal Husband (1999).** Oscar Wilde comedy drama, starring Cate Blanchett.
3.30 **Coast.** The team journeys from Gower to Anglesey. (R)
4.15 **The TV That Made Me.** John Thomson selects his favourite TV shows. (R)
5.00 **Big Dreams Small Spaces.** Monty Don helps amateur horticulturists in Bromley and Stoke. (R)
6.00 **Gardeners' World.** Joe Swift offers tips for how best to plant a tree, while Rachel de Thame explains how even the tiniest of flowers pack a punch in the perfume stakes. (R)
6.30 **Queen Victoria's Children.** The monarch's relationships with her sons, especially the eldest Bertie, whose sexual indiscretions she blamed for having fatally weakened her husband's health. Last in the series. (R)
7.30 **Back in Time for the Weekend.** The Ashby-Hawkins family discovers what the future might hold for people's free time, and get their hands on some robotic housework help. Last in the series. (R)
8.30 **Dad's Army.** Mainwaring camps the platoon in the middle of a firing range, forcing Corporal Jones to make a desperate effort to raise the alarm. Starring Arthur Lowe and Clive Dunn. (R)
9.00 **Stag.** Johnners' stags have been reduced to four, and the survivors realise they must make a final stand if they are to avoid sharing their friends' grisly fate. Last in the series.
10.00 **FILM: The Talented Mr Ripley (1999).** A man is paid to persuade a businessman's spoiled son to return home to his family, but ends up assuming his identity. Anthony Minghella's thriller, with Matt Damon and Jude Law.
12.10 **Line of Duty.** Denton reveals a high-ranking officer has a motive for framing her. (R)
1.10 **Line of Duty.** Denton implies that Dryden was embroiled in a wider conspiracy. (R)
2.10 **FILM: The Salt on Sea (2002).** A bereaved husband is drawn into a shady world of thugs and drug addicts as he tries to save his neighbour. Crime thriller, starring Val Kilmer and Vincent D'Onofrio.
3.45 **This Is BBC2.** Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC2.
5.45 **Great British Garden Revival.** Cut flowers and trees. (R)

ITV

- 6.00 **CITV: Bottom Knockers Street 6.15 Bottom Knockers Street 6.25 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.45 Signed Stories: Share a Story 6.50 Sooty 7.05 Super 4 7.15 Looped**
7.30 **Scrambled!: Scrambled!** Two hours of children's fun.
7.35 **Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** Chaotic cartoon capers, voiced by Rowan Atkinson. (R)
7.50 **Scrambled!: Horrid Henry.** Cartoon about a mischievous youngster. (R)
8.10 **Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters.** Animated comedy.
8.30 **Scrambled!: Jessie.** Disney sitcom, starring Debby Ryan.
9.05 **Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show.** Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
9.25 **Murder, She Wrote.** Jessica runs into an old friend. (R)
10.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show USA.** The host takes his successful talk show stateside.
11.20 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
11.25 **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R)
12.30 **Live Six Nations Rugby Union.** Ireland v Italy (Kick-off 1.30pm). Coverage of the opening match of this afternoon's double bill, which comes from the Aviva Stadium.
3.25 **Live Six Nations Rugby Union.** England v Wales (Kick-off 4.00pm). Coverage of the second match from the fourth and penultimate round of fixtures, which comes from Twickenham.
6.30 **ITV News Central;** Weather.
6.45 **ITV News and Weather.**
7.00 **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** Mel B interviews dogsitters in I'm a Celebrity, Get Out of Me Ear!, Little Ant and Dec chat to the stars of The Hunger Games, and Craig David joins the duo for a big finale.
8.30 **You're Back in the Room.** New series. Phillip Schofield returns with the game show in which five strangers are hypnotised by Keith Barry, then asked to complete simple tasks in the hope of winning £25,000.
9.30 **The Jonathan Ross Show.** Actress Glenn Close, comedy actor and writer Marlon Wayans and X-Files star Gillian Anderson take a seat on Jonathan's sofa. Plus, music by US country singer Carrie Underwood.
10.30 **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.
10.45 **FILM: Moonraker (1979).** James Bond's search for a missing space shuttle leads to an industrialist bent on genocide – and a rematch with old foe Jaws. Spy adventure, starring Roger Moore and Lois Chiles.
1.20 **Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00 **Murder, She Wrote.** An old friend of Jessica's becomes the prime suspect in a murder investigation when a decapitated body is found. (R)
3.55 **ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.

Channel 4

- 6.15 **How I Met Your Mother.** Barney tries to impress a barmaid who dislikes men wearing suits. (R)
6.40 **The King of Queens.** Doug decides to stop eating meat. (R)
7.05 **The King of Queens.** Adam Sandler guest stars. (R)
7.30 **MSA British Rally Championship.** The Mid Wales Stages.
7.55 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra writes a stern letter to Marie. (R)
8.25 **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra and Ray's privacy is invaded. (R)
9.00 **The Morning Line.** Alice Plunkett presents from Sandown Park.
10.00 **The Big Bang Theory.** Howard becomes attracted to a woman who falls for Leonard. (R)
10.30 **The Big Bang Theory.** Sheldon is delighted Leonard's girlfriend matches his high standards. (R)
11.00 **The Superhumans Show.** With guests David Weir and Jon-Allan Butterworth.
11.30 **The Simpsons.** Lisa gets lost en route to the museum. (R)
12.00 **The Simpsons.** With the guest voice of Dolly Parton. (R)
12.30 **Marvel's Agents of SHIELD.** Ward's campaign for revenge strikes a devastating blow.
1.30 **Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage from Sandown Park and Wolverhampton.
4.10 **Come Dine with Me.** The competition heads to Milton Keynes. (R)
4.40 **Come Dine with Me.** PA Louise hosts the second night in Milton Keynes. (R)
5.10 **Come Dine with Me.** The third dinner party in Milton Keynes. (R)
5.40 **Come Dine with Me.** Helen hosts the fourth night of the competition in Milton Keynes. (R)
6.10 **Come Dine with Me.** It is the final evening in Milton Keynes and the turn of competitive salesman Simon to host. He plans for an evening of fine dining, but had not expected sabotage from his guests. (R)
6.35 **Channel 4 News.**
7.00 **Crufts 2016.** Clare Balding is joined by Supervet Professor Noel Fitzpatrick on the third day of the annual dog show, covering judging in the Working and Pastoral groups.
9.00 **Lee Evans – Monsters.** The energetic stand-up star rails against the annoyances of modern life in a performance recorded at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham in 2014.
10.00 **FILM: Riddick (2013).** Premiere. A fugitive left for dead on a dangerous alien world lures bounty hunters to the planet in a plot to escape. Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Vin Diesel and Katee Sackhoff.
12.20 **FILM: Kick-Ass (2010).** Action comedy, starring Aaron Taylor-Johnson.
2.25 **Hollyoaks.** Omnibus. Nico spikes a bottle of wine. (R)
4.30 **Ultimate Dealer.** Ben Butterell and Andy Kew visit Wells, Somerset. (R)
4.55 **Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb.** Homeowners in Surrey compete to sell their houses. (R)
5.50 **How I Met Your Mother.** (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 **Milkshake!** Peppa Pig 6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas 6.20 Bob the Builder 6.30 Ticky Toc 6.40 Zack and Quack 6.55 Roobarb and Custard Too 7.00 Make Way for Noddy 7.15 Paw Patrol 7.25 Little Princess 7.40 Pip Ahoy! 7.55 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.20 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 8.35 Wanda and the Alien
8.45 **The Fairly OddParents.**
9.20 **The Saturday Show Live.**
11.20 **Police Interceptors.** (R)
12.20 **Police Interceptors.** Dano Stevens pursues a heroin dealer. (R)
1.15 **Pets Who Hate Vets.** Tips on preparing reluctant pets for a visit to the vets' surgery. (R)
2.15 **Psycho Pussies: When Cats Attack.** The wild and dangerous side of the domestic cat. (R)
3.15 **90 Cats and Counting: Cat Crazies.** People who have taken their devotion to their feline friends to the next level. (R)
4.15 **Kitten Impossible.** Internet clips of cats performing remarkable feats. (R)
5.10 **41 Dogs in a 3-Bed Semi.** Animal lovers whose affection has reached extreme levels. (R)
6.10 **Now That's Funny!** A collection of internet-sourced videos with a family friendly hook, featuring laugh-out-loud unexpected personal moments now being shared with the world. (R)
7.10 **5 News Weekend.**
7.15 **World War II in Colour.** This edition focuses on the final days of Hitler and the Third Reich as German forces were surrounded by Soviet troops from the east and the Allies' advance from the west. (R)
8.10 **The Gadget Show.** Oris and Jon take on delivery service Amazon Prime using a selection of the latest transport technology, and mobility scooter inventor Colin Furze reveals his latest projects. (R)
9.00 **The Championship: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches from the Championship, including Huddersfield Town v Burnley.
10.00 **Goal Rush: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present highlights from the League One and League Two, including Burton Albion v Fleetwood Town at the Pirelli Stadium.
10.30 **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** Stabler and Benson investigate the death of a 17-year-old girl and discover a suspect in the case may have been deliberately passing on the HIV virus to his many sexual partners. (R)
11.20 **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** Benson and Stabler have to tread carefully when they investigate the deaths of a wealthy couple and find themselves playing a game of politics and double bluff. (R)
12.15 **SuperCasino.**
3.10 **Police Interceptors.** (R)
4.10 **Carry on Caravanning.** (R)
4.50 **Divine Designs.** (R)
5.20 **HouseBusters.** (R)
5.45 **Angels of Jarm.** (R)
5.50 **Angels of Jarm.** (R)



Live Six Nations Rugby Union

2pm
Scotland v France (Kick-off 3.00pm). John Inverdale introduces coverage of the final match from the penultimate weekend of the championship, staged at Murrayfield. The Scots have lost their last 10 matches against France and lost 15-9 to England in their only other home match of this season's championship.



Steve Backshall's Extreme Mountain Challenge

8pm
The naturalist reaches the peak of one of Venezuela's tepui mountains, before joining a party of Italian cavers as they venture into the unexplored caverns within. Inside, they discover strange wildlife and evidence of the geological forces that give the tepuis their unusual shape.



Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands

7pm
Rheda escapes from her captors in Bregan, only to find that Abrecan's army is closing in on her kingdom, and he has gathered many allies to help him in his plan to take over Herot. Rheda realises she must make a great sacrifice to persuade an old foe to help her.



The Secret Life of the Zoo

6pm
Niall the chimpanzee keeper has known chimp Boris for 44 years. When the ape captures a moorhen chick, Niall must use his powers of persuasion to negotiate the safe release of his hostage, while four new fledgling Humboldt penguins who are being brought up apart from the main colony.



Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas

8pm
The magicians attempt to spot the method of more illusionists' most spectacular displays of conjuring. This episode features a variety of card tricks, including one that uses a violin, and Teller gets in on the act with one of his own. Plus, one contestant performs an illusion involving confetti.

BBC1

- 6.00** **Breakfast.**
- 8.15** **Match of the Day.** Highlights of the latest Premier League fixtures, including Norwich City v Manchester City at Carrow Road and Arsenal v West Bromwich Albion at the Emirates Stadium. (R)
- 9.00** **The Andrew Marr Show.**
- 10.00** **The Big Questions.** Nicky Campbell presents moral and religious discussions on topical issues from Hutchesons' Grammar School, Glasgow.
- 11.00** **Sunday Politics West Midlands.** The week's events at Westminster, presented by Andrew Neil. Including a regional round-up.
- 12.15** **Bargain Hunt.** From Peterborough. (R)
- 1.00** **BBC News; Weather.**
- 1.15** **The TV That Made Me.** John Hannah reminisces about The Sweeney and The Champions.
- 2.00** **Live Six Nations Rugby Union.** Scotland v France (Kick-off 3.00pm). John Inverdale introduces coverage of the final match from the penultimate weekend of the championship, staged at Murrayfield.
- 5.05** **Songs of Praise.** Josie d'Arby visits Birmingham Children's Hospital.
- 5.40** **Pointless Celebrities.** Ben Cohen, Kyran Bracken, Zoe Salmon, Dani Harmer, Patrick Baladi, Ewen Macintosh, Cheryl Fergison and Ricky Groves try to find obscure answers in the general knowledge quiz. (R)
- 6.30** **BBC News.**
- 6.50** **Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 7.00** **Countryfile.** Adam Henson visits Aberystwyth University to meet students who are working towards a career in farming, and takes a look at some features on young farmers from past episodes. Including Weather for The Week Ahead.
- 8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents an episode focused on Indian art and culture from the Neasden Temple in North London, revealing the connections between British and Indian history.
- 9.00** **The Night Manager.** Pine gets involved in an arms deal, but his relationship with Jed Jeopardises his cover. Burr begins to suspect that Roper has been buying arms from the British government.
- 10.00** **BBC News.**
- 10.20** **Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 10.30** **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's only Premier League fixture, which was Aston Villa v Tottenham Hotspur at Villa Park.
- 11.00** **Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights.** Action from the sixth round, including this afternoon's clash between Manchester United and West Ham United at Old Trafford.
- 11.30** **FILM: It's a Wonderful Afterlife (2010).** An Indian mother turns to murder in her desperation to marry off her daughter, but ends up haunted by her victims. Supernatural comedy, starring Shabana Azmi and Goldy Notay.
- 1.05** **Weather for the Week Ahead.**
- 1.10** **BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.45** **An Island Parish.** A Jesuit priest from the mainland gives Fr John Paul a helping hand. (R)
- 7.15** **This Farming Life.** Documentary following life on five farms around Scotland. (R)
- 8.15** **Gardeners' World.** Joe Swift offers tips for how best to plant a tree. (R)
- 8.45** **Countryfile.** Anita Rani and John Craven explore Northern Ireland. (R)
- 9.45** **Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** Highlights of the series.
- 11.15** **The Best Dishes Ever.** A selection of recipes featuring unusual combinations from the BBC archives. (R)
- 11.45** **Winter Youth Olympic Games.**
- 12.15** **MOTD2 Extra.** With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team.
- 1.00** **Homes Under the Hammer.** Featuring three terraced houses in London, the Midlands and Devon. (R)
- 2.00** **Escape to the Continent.** A Wiltshire couple who want to move to Dubrovnik, Croatia. (R)
- 3.00** **FILM: Strictly Ballroom (1992).** Australian dance comedy, starring Paul Mercurio.
- 4.30** **Gymnastics World Cup.** Highlights of the penultimate meeting of the season from Glasgow.
- 6.00** **Flog It!** Mark Stacey and Adam Partridge value items in Bangor, north Wales, including a collection of thimbles and an antique sextant. Paul Martin also visits the Menai Suspension Bridge. (R)
- 7.00** **Who's the Boss?** The business documentary concludes as James Watt, co-founder of craft beer brewery BrewDog, conducts a recruitment experiment with the help of his workforce. Last in the series. (R)
- 8.00** **Steve Backshall's Extreme Mountain Challenge.** Part two of two. The naturalist joins a party of cavers exploring the caverns within the mountains, before returning to the ground by abseiling down the world's highest waterfall.
- 9.00** **Let's Play Darts for Sport Relief 2016.** Gabby Logan hosts the final of the darts challenge, while the professional and celebrity players who took part in the earlier rounds look back on the tournament. Last in the series.
- 10.00** **Thirteen.** Ivy is put under pressure to relieve her ordeal, but her responses make Merchant suspicious that she is lying. She turns to Tim for support, only to suffer a crushing betrayal.
- 11.00** **The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story.** Prosecutor Marcia Clark faces negative feedback, while differing goals divide the defence team as preliminary hearings and arduous jury selection get underway. (R)
- 11.50** **FILM: The Magdalene Sisters (2002).** Four young women endure mental and physical cruelty at the hands of Catholic nuns in a home for fallen women. Drama, starring Geraldine McEwan, Anne-Marie Duff and Eileen Walsh.
- 1.45** **Sign Zone: Countryfile.** (R)
- 2.40** **Sign Zone: Holby City.** (R)
- 3.40** **This Is BBC2.**

ITV

- 6.00** **CITV: Bottom Knocker Street 6.15** Bottom Knocker Street **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures **6.45** Signed Stories: Share a Story **6.50** Sooty **7.05** Super 4 **7.15** Looped
- 7.30** **Scrambled! Scrambled!**
- 7.35** **Scrambled! Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** Chaotic cartoon capers, voiced by Rowan Atkinson. (R)
- 7.50** **Scrambled! Horrid Henry.** Cartoon about a mischievous youngster. (R)
- 8.10** **Scrambled! Nerds & Monsters.** Animated comedy.
- 8.30** **Scrambled! Bear Grylls Survival School.** Children are taught to survive in the wild. Last in the series.
- 9.05** **Scrambled! The Tom & Jerry Show.** Cat and mouse adventures. (R)
- 9.25** **ITV News.**
- 9.30** **Formula E Highlights.** The Mexico City ePrix.
- 10.25** **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
- 11.25** **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
- 12.30** **ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 12.40** **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** Guests air their differences. (R)
- 1.45** **River Monsters.** A feared marine creature in Central America. (R)
- 2.15** **Big Star's Little Star.** With Harry Redknapp, Vincent Simone and Debra Stephenson. (R)
- 3.45** **Off Their Rockers.** A pensioner attempts a daredevil escape from a care home. (R)
- 4.15** **FILM: For Your Eyes Only (1981).** James Bond spy thriller, starring Roger Moore.
- 6.35** **ITV News Central; Weather.**
- 6.45** **ITV News and Weather.**
- 7.00** **Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands.** Rheda escapes from her captors, only to find that Abrecan's army is closing in on her kingdom. She realises she must make a great sacrifice to persuade an old foe to help her.
- 8.00** **The Story of Cats.** How cats went from wild predators to domestic pets, exploring why humans are inclined to find kittens cute and how future generations of cats may lose their hunting instincts.
- 9.00** **Doctor Thorne.** Sir Roger falls seriously ill and Dr Thorne feels certain that he will soon die. His son comes to see him, and to the doctor's horror, takes an immediate liking to Mary.
- 10.00** **ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 10.15** **Houdini & Doyle.** New series. Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini help police investigate the case of a nun allegedly killed by a ghost. Murder mystery, with Stephen Mangan and Michael Weston.
- 11.15** **Six Nations Highlights.** Action from the fourth round of the championship, with highlights of England v Wales at Twickenham, Ireland v Italy at the Aviva Stadium and Scotland v France at Murrayfield.
- 12.15** **Jackpot247.**
- 3.00** **ITV Nightscreen.**
- 5.05** **The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R)

Channel 4

- 6.15** **How I Met Your Mother.** Barney sleeps with seven women on consecutive nights. (R)
- 6.40** **The King of Queens.** Arthur meets singer Ava St Clair. (R)
- 7.05** **The King of Queens.** Doug and Carrie consider adoption. (R)
- 7.30** **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray joins an American Civil War re-enactment society. (R)
- 7.55** **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ally researches the family tree. (R)
- 8.25** **Frasier.** The shrink flirts with a much younger woman. (R)
- 9.00** **Frasier.** The Cranes go on a road trip. (R)
- 9.30** **Sunday Brunch.** Raleigh Ritchie performs his single Bloodsport.
- 12.30** **George Clarke's Amazing Spaces.** A man transforming a private jet into a crash pad. (R)
- 1.30** **FILM: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (2012).** Family comedy sequel, starring Zachary Gordon.
- 3.20** **FILM: Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief (2010).** Fantasy adventure, starring Logan Lerman.
- 5.40** **Channel 4 News.**
- 6.00** **The Secret Life of the Zoo.** Cameras follow Chester Zoo's four new fledgling Humboldt penguins, and Niall the chimpanzee keeper who has known chimp Boris for 44 years. (R)
- 7.00** **Crufts 2016.** Clare Balding hosts coverage of the final day of the dog show, including the winner of the Friends for Life competition and the announcement of Best in Show. Last in the series.
- 9.00** **Indian Summers.** New series. The British viceroy is seriously injured in a terrorist attack. Aafin is suspected of being involved and tries to keep his double life as a nationalist spy a secret.
- 10.00** **FILM: Slumdog Millionaire (2008).** An impoverished Indian teenager accused of cheating on a quiz show tells the police his eventful life story. Danny Boyle's Oscar-winning drama, with Dev Patel and Freida Pinto.
- 12.20** **The Last Leg.** Adam Hills, Josh Widdicombe and Alex Brooker are joined by celebrity guests for a comic review of the significant moments of the past seven days. (R)
- 1.20** **Embarrassing Bodies Down Under.** Christian Jessen takes the medical programme to Australia. (R)
- 2.15** **Come Dine with Me.** A pub landlady creates an adventurous South African menu in Swansea. (R)
- 2.40** **Come Dine with Me.** Annie Haden hosts the second party in Swansea. (R)
- 3.10** **Come Dine with Me.** The third evening of the competition from Swansea. (R)
- 3.40** **Come Dine with Me.** Beauty queen Samira hosts the penultimate dinner party in Swansea. (R)
- 4.05** **Come Dine with Me.** More arguments threaten the final meal in Swansea. (R)
- 4.35** **Ultimate Dealer.** Two more dealers vie to make the greatest profit. (R)
- 5.00** **Location, Location, Location.** Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer advise two first-time buyers looking to settle down in Leeds, and a couple hoping to swap life in the city for a three-bedroom period home. (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00** **Milkshake!:** Peppa Pig **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas **6.15** Angelina Ballerina **6.30** Bob the Builder **6.45** Ticket to Ride **6.55** Zack and Quack **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too **7.15** Make Way for Noddy **7.25** Paw Patrol **7.35** Little Princess **7.50** Pip Ahoy! **8.05** Blaze and the Monster Machines **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom **8.50** Wanda and the Alien **9.05** Toby's Travelling Circus **9.20** Jelly Jamm **9.35** LazyTown
- 9.55** **The Fairly OddParents.** Double bill. Timmy wishes for a talking car.
- 10.30** **The Championship: Football League Tonight.** Highlights and all the goals from the Championship. (R)
- 11.30** **Goal Rush: Football League Tonight.** Action from League One and League Two. (R)
- 12.00** **FILM: Zathura: A Space Adventure (2005).** Family sci-fi adventure, starring Josh Hutcherson and Jonah Bobo.
- 2.00** **FILM: Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son (2011).** Comedy, with Martin Lawrence.
- 4.15** **FILM: Flubber (1997).** Children's comedy remake, starring Robin Williams.
- 6.00** **Now That's Funny!** A collection of internet-sourced videos, including a fast-declining hot-air balloon on an adventure around the world and a dog that has a serious issue with a Christmas tree.
- 7.00** **Budgies Make You Laugh Out Loud.** Compilation of internet videos featuring the antics of budgies and other birds, from flying fails to performing parrots and real-life angry birds.
- 8.00** **Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas.** Simon Pegg joins one of this episode's contestants on stage to assist with an illusion involving a wind-up watch. Plus, a selection of card tricks, including one that uses a violin.
- 8.55** **5 News Weekend.**
- 9.00** **FILM: Jonah Hex (2010).** Premiere. A horribly disfigured bounty hunter able to communicate with the dead pursues the man who killed his family. Fantasy Western, starring Josh Brolin and John Malkovich.
- 10.20** **FILM: Angels & Demons (2009).** Academic adventurer Robert Langdon is called in by the Vatican to search for four kidnapped men in line to become Pope. Thriller sequel, starring Tom Hanks and Ewan McGregor.
- 12.50** **Tattoo Disasters UK.** Featuring a granny whose tribute tattoo turns deadly. (R)
- 1.15** **SuperCasino.** Live interactive gaming.
- 3.10** **Benefits by the Sea: Jaywick.** The daily lives of residents of the Essex village. (R)
- 4.00** **Wildlife SOS.** (R)
- 4.25** **Wildlife SOS.** (R)
- 4.50** **Great Artists.** Italian Renaissance painter Raphael. (R)
- 5.20** **Great Scientists.** (R)
- 5.45** **Angels of Jarm.** (R)
- 5.50** **Angels of Jarm.** (R)

Figures are given on new homes built in the area

THE house building sector in Shropshire supports almost 8,000 jobs a year, a new report has claimed.

Industry body the Home Builders Federation has released details of the number of homes started in the county in 2014, showing that work began on 860 homes in Shropshire that year, with around 1,000 getting underway in Telford & Wrekin.

The report claims that the work supported 4,300 jobs in Telford, and a further 3,698 in the wider county.

Telford & Wrekin's 20-year plan for house building outlines plans to build 20,000 homes between 2011 and 2031, so during 2014, the HBF figures show, the area was on track to meet its average annual target.

Shropshire, however, appears to have fallen short of its own development target during the year.

The figures released by the industry body also reveal that almost 80,000 new trees or shrubs were planted across the two authorities during the year, while £1.3 million was put towards education in Shropshire and £1.6 million in Telford & Wrekin.

The new homes generated an additional £1.1 million in council tax for Shropshire Council, and £1.3 million in the neighbouring authority, while other forms of tax on the back of the developments generated £8.6 million in Shropshire and £10 million in Telford & Wrekin.

HBF executive chairman Stewart Baseley said: "House building makes a huge, but largely hidden, social and economic contribution to Shropshire."

"Whilst housing output in the West Midlands has increased, we are still not delivering anywhere near what is needed nationally."

"As well as delivering desperately needed new homes, increasing housing supply would provide significant additional benefits for everyone through additional jobs, investment in infrastructure and facilities for communities."

He added: "People often don't realise that the new community centre, school or sports facilities have been funded directly as a result of housing developments."

"Ultimately, providing new homes for people also means better facilities for the wider community. These are the very things that turn a collection of houses into communities; brand new places where people want to live."

Of the homes started locally, just 198 in Shropshire were classed as affordable, with 230 in Telford.

Takeover has created firm worth £400m

SHROPSHIRE logistics company Culina has taken over a Cheshire-based rival in a move that turns it into a £400 million company.

The Market Drayton-based transport and haulage business has announced an agreement to take over Great Bear Distribution Limited, which took effect from March 1.

The combined businesses will have a workforce of about 5,000 staff, almost 7.5 million square feet of warehousing and a joint fleet of more than 600 vehicles.

"Great Bear and Culina are absolutely complementary businesses, two strong organisations with great reputations, two like-minded companies with similar cultures," said Culina chief executive Thomas van Mourik.

"This is an excellent fit which is going to be fantastic for staff and for clients."

"We are acquiring some excellent contracts, facilities and people. This move significantly expands our ambient network and will enable us to benefit from synergies and efficiencies that will improve our service offer to customers even further."

The acquisition extends the existing Culina network to 50 distribution centres in the UK, thanks to the addition of the thirty two facilities currently owned and operated by Great Bear.

"The retention of the Great Bear brand name is testimony to the hard work of our people over the past 21 years," said Glenn Lindfield, chief executive of Great Bear.

"Culina Group recognises that it is investing in a highly successful company with its own great spirit. Culina's aim now is to support our growth trajectory with the added workforce infrastructure and resources of the overall group."

"The Great Bear board believes this move makes strong commercial sense. The combining of our two businesses will create major opportunities for significantly growing our market share."

Fairer balance needed for self-employed



Pam Mason of Dyke Yaxley

A SHROPSHIRE accountancy firm is backing calls to create a more level playing field of business support between self-employed people and salaried staff.

Latest figures show that 15 per cent of British workers are now classed as self-employed – and the figure is continuing to rise.

Yet a Government-commissioned review revealed that self-employed people find it much harder to get a good deal on mortgages, insurance cover and pensions.

Pam Mason, of Dyke Yaxley Chartered Accountants, based in Shrewsbury and Telford, said: "There are now 4.6 million self-employed people in Britain, but the level of support they receive still leaves a lot to be desired."

"In rural counties such as Shropshire,

self-employment has been one of the biggest economic success stories of recent years. We should be doing everything we can to give them the support they need, so they continue to thrive."

The review, carried out for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, suggested the introduction of more flexible mortgages, pensions and insurance packages for the self-employed. It also called for the self-employed maternity allowance to be brought into line with statutory maternity pay for the first six weeks, and recommended a clarification of the definition of a self-employed person for tax and employment law purposes.

Pam said: "The support provided by Government to those starting or extending a family should be consistent, whether

the person is employed or self-employed. The UK relies on millions of hard-working self-employed entrepreneurs who are playing an ever-growing role in our economy."

"It would be a very sad state of affairs if the way in which a person chooses to work was creating barriers to them either buying a home, or feeling that they could start a family."

Mike Cherry, policy director at the Federation of Small Businesses, said: "For too long the self-employed have been frozen out of getting far access to mortgages, insurance products and pensions. They bring unbeatable flexibility to our workforce while allowing people to realise their dream of becoming their own boss, taking real control of their working lives."

Sports group supports lunch break campaign

A CAMPAIGN encouraging employers to offer more 'flexible lunch breaks' to their staff has won the backing of the county sports partnership in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin.

Energize says it enthusiastically welcomes the new initiative, prompted by a report claiming the culture of not taking a lunch break is damaging the nation's health.

The 'Manifesto For A Flexible Lunch Break' has been published by physical activity champions at the CSP Network, and backed by research from the British Heart Foundation National Centre for Physical Activity and Health.

It calls on employers to consider requests for people to start work a little earlier or leave a little later, with a longer lunch break during the day, factoring in access to daylight and active social times.

It also recommends more proactive promotion of workplace activity, such as employee noticeboards, fitness classes, social walks, runs and cycle rides, as well as stronger collaboration between local businesses and sports coaches, clubs and facilities.

Chris Child, chief executive of Energize, based at University Centre Shrewsbury, in Frankwell Quay, said: "Research shows that an active employee takes less sick leave – and if we could just cut one sickness day per person a year, we would save businesses across England an estimated £2.8 billion."

"There is no doubt that, here in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin just like other parts of the UK, a lack of flexible working practices is proving to be a barrier to a more active lifestyle."

"The current culture of working through the lunch break is seen as a deterrent for people to get active during the lightest and brightest part of the day."

"We are already working with local employers who have identified employee health and wellbeing as a priority, and recognise that a physically active workforce

BUSINESS LATEST

Report by Sophie Madden

improves wellbeing, reduces absenteeism and increases productivity.

"That is why we held a conference a few weeks ago, showing companies how to 'energize' their workforce."

"We recognise that there isn't a one-size-fits-all solution to this issue, but we'd be delighted to offer free workplace consultations to help local businesses develop solutions which meet their specific needs."

The manifesto draws on two years of research, including survey data and interviews with people engaged in 'Workplace Challenge' – a free online tool used by over 45,000 workers to log their physical activity.

Mr Child said: "A British Heart Foundation evaluation of the Workplace Challenge has demonstrated that an active employee, on average, takes one less sick day per year – so encouraging an active lunch break has tangible economic benefits for employers."

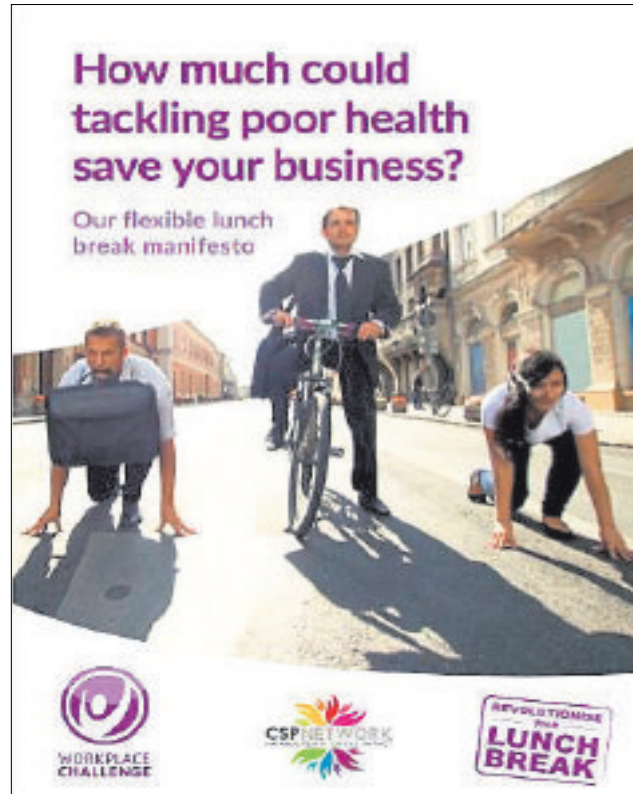
Chained

"However, in recession-hit years, there has been greater pressure placed on employees to take shorter lunch breaks, or no break at all, leading to some feeling chained to their desks and – worse still – feeling frowned upon or overlooked for promotion if they choose to get their trainers on or go for a walk at lunchtime."

"Others struggle to fit exercise alongside valuable 'catch up' time with colleagues into their prescribed hour-long break. This places the UK's workforce at a distinct disadvantage when compared to our European counterparts, who have a longer 'siesta time' to exercise."

The research found that those who adopted a more active lifestyle were seen not only to reduce the number of days they took as sick leave, but also spent far less time being at work, despite being sick."

The average number of sick days taken has risen to 5.31 per person per year, costing £14.9 billion in lost working days.



The campaign poster promoting greater flexibility over lunch breaks

Meeting to help landlords get to grips with tax changes



Changes are on the way which will affect landlords

IN collaboration with Shropshire Council, the National Landlords Association (NLA) invites landlords in Shropshire and the surrounding areas to a meeting on Monday to discuss important changes to buy-to-let that could drastically increase their tax bills.

Under new rules announced in last summer's Budget, the rate of mortgage interest relief will be restricted to the basic rate of 20 per cent from next year and from next month landlords will have to pay an extra three per cent stamp duty when buying new property.

Peter Loughlin, Business Development Manager at tax advisory group OneE, will be delivering a presenta-

tion on these changes as well as tax compliance, and will also be offering advice on how to better organise a lettings portfolio.

The meeting will also include presentations on a variety of topics.

Lucy Simpson, Welfare Support & Reform Team Leader, Shropshire Council, will be providing the latest update on Universal Credit, its impact on benefit claimants, and where landlords can get help and advice.

Terry Alexander, Community Protection Team Leader, Shropshire Council, on student accommodation and council proposals for landlord accreditation.

Julie Woolfenden, NLA representative for Shropshire and North

Wales, said: "Whether they are new or already in the business, landlords need to be aware of how they can be affected by the changes to the private rented sector (PRS)."

"The NLA would like to help guide landlords on their lettings activities in the Shropshire area and how these changes can affect them. Meetings such as these provide an excellent resource to keep local landlords updated and informed."

The event is free to attend and will take place at Shire Hall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND. Attendees are advised to arrive for 5.30pm. The event will run from 6pm to 8pm. To book a place visit www.landlords.org.uk/events

Do you have any business news to share with our readers? Email thom.kennedy@shropshirestar.co.uk

deaths**BOURNE****Derrick**

Of Morda Road, Oswestry.

Passed away peacefully at The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, on March 2, 2016, aged 79 years.

Beloved Husband of Dawn, loving Father of Johnathan and Debra, much loved Grandfather of Holly, Jamie, Emily, Daniel, India and Fleur.

Funeral Service at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury on Monday, March 14, at 11.30am.

Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to Cancer Research UK.

Inquiries to

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Funeral Directors,

Salop Road,

Oswestry.

Telephone 01691 652995.

PREECE**Phyllis**

(Phyl)

Beloved Wife of the late Horace, of Summerhill, Baschurch and Millington Close. A loving and much loved Mum to Sylvia and Mum-in-law to Ken. Cherished Nan to Andrew and Karen and Helen and Jamie and Great-Nan to Josh, Adam, Ethan and Emelia, passed away peacefully at High Lea House on March 4, 2016, in her 101st year.

We shall announce the Funeral arrangements once they are finalised.

All inquiries please to

AUBREY KIRKHAM
Funeral Directors,
The Elm,
Four Crosses,
01691 839932

WHITE**Frankie**

Of Russell Ridge. Beloved Wife of Alan, a loving and much loved Mum to Russell, Fiona, Wendy, Renner and Briony and a cherished Grandma to her 14 Grandchildren; Rebecca, Alex, Chloe, Katie and Hannah. Oliver, Elena, Bethany and Lydia. Milly and Emily, Jess, Ben and Will. Passed away unexpectedly at home.

The Funeral Service will take place in St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, on Tuesday, March 15, at 11am, followed by a post Funeral reception, for all.

There will be a later private Committal and Interment.

Flowers are welcome, however there will be a retiring collection at Church, on behalf of the Marie Curie Cancer Care Trust, for which purpose collecting vessels will be provided.

All inquiries please to

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14 VAUXHALL CORSA EXCITE Blue, 7000 miles	SOLD	03
15 VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE, Grey, 14,000 miles	SOLD	54
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56 VAUXHALL VECTRA Exclusive 1.8 Red Metallic	£3895	
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Motoring



Refreshed and new model in i20 range

By Matt Joy

Hyundai's popular i20 hatchback has been refreshed for 2016 with a downsized petrol engine and a new model in the range.

Forget those fancy European brands you think you know; when it comes to making a solid private purchase, the Hyundai i20 is about as sensible as you can be – and that's a good thing. Smart, well-equipped, good value and offering a slick driving experience, it's hard to fault, but that hasn't stopped Hyundai giving the i20 an update for 2016.

Most importantly, it's now available with a brand-new three-cylinder turbocharged petrol engine, in two power outputs with impressive claims for fuel consumption and performance. Equipment upgrades have been made across the range while there's a whole new model too; the i20 Active is designed to be a compact crossover, with a 20mm increase in ride height, unique bumpers, roof rails and a rear spoiler.

Prescence

The standard i20 is a neat and inoffensive piece of design, but in the new Active form, there's a little bit more going on. The extra detail in the front bumper gives the front end some additional presence, as does the increased ride height. It's not as distinct from its conventional sibling as some rival offerings, but it will snare some buyers that find the regular five-door too conventional.

Hyundai's image has also come a remarkable way in a matter of years. Its badge carries as much weight as many European rivals and in cars like the i20 and Santa Fe, it is producing cars with distinction.

There's no sheet metal changes for 2016, so the i20 keeps its exterior and interior dimensions. Those seated up front should find it easy to get comfortable. Although the seats aren't huge, they offer useful support and the low-set dashboard means the view out is good. In the rear, it's a little tighter for space with headroom at a premium for those near six feet tall, but legroom is good for the class as is the boot space.

While the Active model has suspension raised by 20mm, its effect on the i20's behaviour is minimal. The ride quality is good on the vast majority of surfaces, with only particularly poor surfaces creating significant intrusion into the cabin. On the flip side, the handling is safe and secure if unremarkable, but the steering is light and accurate plus the raised ride height doesn't make the i20 Active suddenly heel over in corners.

What really marks out the 2016 i20 however is that new powerplant. Three-cylinder turbo engines used to be the preserve of Japanese Kei cars but this Hyundai offering is a gem. The on-paper performance might seem modest, but this belies how perky it feels. It will rev quite happily without significant engine noise, but better still is the generous torque which allows you to be lazy with the gearshifts and still make good progress. Despite that, the official figures are impressive with 58.9mpg combined and 110g/km of CO2, while the 120PS version feels no quicker on the road.

Go for the i20 Active model and you get 17-inch alloy wheels, LED daytime running lights, DAB radio and rear parking sensors for your £15,225, and this comes with the 100PS 1.0-litre turbo engine only.

The regular i20 starts at £10,995 for the S model and even this comes with electrically adjusted and heated door mirrors, height adjustable driver's seat, reach and rake adjustable steering wheel and an MP3-compatible stereo with USB and auxiliary inputs. The top-spec Premium Nav SE with the top diesel engine is only £17,700, so the i20 is impressive value across the range.

If the i20 Active is big enough to suit your lifestyle then it makes an exceptionally strong case as a private purchase. It's excellent value for money whatever specification you choose, while the Active model not only combines the best engine choice but also adds in a little more ruggedness. It's an ideal first car while older folk will find the raised driving position a useful boon too.

There are more sparkling drives in the class but for many drivers this is of lesser importance than value and equipment.

This car summed up in a single word: Surprising
If this car was a: movie, you'd be impressed beyond your expectations, but also tempted to keep it a secret.

TESTED

Hyundai i20 Active 1.0 100PS, £15,225

Engine: 1.0-litre petrol unit producing 99bhp and 126lb/ft of torque

Transmission: Five-speed manual gearbox driving the front wheels

Performance: Top speed 109mph, 0-62mph in 10.9 seconds

Economy: 58.9mpg combined

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Motoring



Ford takes honours at awards

Ford models have won UK Car of the Year Awards for the third year in succession. The all-new right-hand drive Ford Mustang took Coupé of the Year, winning over the judges with its performance, value for money and fun factor.

UK Car of the Year honours are decided by a panel of 27 British motoring journalists, including contributors to national newspapers, consumer and industry magazines, websites and TV.

Tim Pollard, of CAR magazine, praised Ford Mustang's "exceptional value, amazing bangs for your buck and sheer drama of the thing". John Challen, UK Car of the Year Awards director, highlighted Ford Mustang for its "outstanding performance and value

for money. Just the name is enough to stir even the most conservative petrol-heads."

Ford Mustang owners can choose between 317PS of EcoBoost power or 416PS of V8 muscle, with prices starting from £30,495.

The style and practicality of the latest Ford S-MAX helped secure Multi-Purpose Vehicle of the Year Award for the acclaimed Ford model. "The original S-MAX tore up the people-carrier rule-book, and now its replacement moves the game on again. Seven-seat practicality meets renowned Ford dynamics – it's a combination that continues to defy the odds," said John Challen.

Top Gear magazine's Tom Ford reckons: "The S-MAX is an MPV that doesn't drive like one. And yet it takes

seven people with ease. Plus it comes loaded with all the best convenience options. As an all-rounder for families, it's hard to beat."

Ford models have featured in the UK Car of the Year Awards since they were launched in 2014. Ford S-MAX and Ford Mustang's 2016 success follow previous accolades for the Ford Fiesta ST and Ford Mondeo.

Commenting on the wins, Ford of Britain chairman and managing director Andy Barratt, said: "We are bringing a desired taste of the US to the UK with Ford Mustang and S-MAX blends cutting-edge design with seven-seat accommodation. We're proud that the judges have recognised the strengths of both cars in this year's UK Car of the Year Awards."

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COBRA beaten after getting stuck in the mud



COBRA get a shove on for a try

COBRA'S hopes of putting paid to any lingering relegation fears in the Swalec Welsh League division one (north) suffered a setback after being edged out 14-10 in a mud bath at home to Mold.

The one consolation was that they picked up a bonus point, but defeat kept the Meifod side glancing over their shoulders at their basement rivals.

Heavy conditions and some questionable refereeing did not help COBRA who were unable to capitalise despite enjoying the majority of the play.

After a tight first half hour, they got in front when winger Sion Wyn Williams broke through before off-loading to centre Rhys Jones to go over under the posts, with fly-half Llew Williams converting.

But Mold hit back with a converted try themselves five minutes later, when the hosts failed to halt a driving maul from 20 yards out. A spell of pressure close to the visitors' line brought a penalty which Williams kicked for a slender 10-7 interval lead for the Llanfair men.

With the pitch becoming increasingly heavy following rain the previous day, the encounter turned into a battle of attrition.

COBRA were well placed after stealing a line-out, but were forced back after hooker Steve Isaac was yellow carded for throwing a punch.

With their hosts down to 14 men, Mold took advantage to score a decisive second try which they also converted, despite a clear knock-on earlier in the move.

COBRA spent much of the last 20 minutes attacking close to the line, but were unable to find a way through as they slipped to a disappointing defeat.

However, they remain nine points above the basement places, despite lowly Dolgellau boosting their survival prospects with a much-needed 9-6 home victory over Bala.

The Llanfair side's next game is away to Ruthin in two weeks (March 26) following the conclusion of the Six Nations Championship, when they will be looking to get back to winning form.

WELSHPOOL had no action in division three (north) after their trip to Porthmadog was postponed.

Good Evans as Llan book quarters slot

TWO goals from Tom Evans steered Llanrhaeadr into the quarter-finals of the Central Wales Cup with a 4-0 passage at Machynlleth.

Again on the road, Llan took an interval lead when Kieran Evans followed up to fire home on 29 minutes after a headed effort from Endaf Owens had rattled the bar.

Tom Evans then doubled the advantage seven minutes into the second period when rounding a couple of defenders before slotting past the keeper.

With Mach's challenge fading, victory was wrapped up with two late goals, Iwan Matthews making it 3-0 on 85 minutes after pouncing on Kieran Evans' through ball, before rounding the stranded keeper and lobbing over the covering defence.

Two minutes later, Tom Evans completed the scoring when heading in an Owens cross for his second goal of the game.

In the late light, Llan will travel to either Berriew or Llanidloes who play their delayed fourth round tie next Tuesday.



Oswestry's Luca Owen-Youens crosses and (right) skipper Andy Smith barks out the instructions with Hamish Fuller and Mike Davies. *Pics: Martin Ord.*



Eagles' win could be vital in race for title

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

SECOND placed Oswestry kept their title hopes alive in rugby's Cheshire South – but were made to battle all the way before overcoming Trentham 17-13 at Granville Park.

Victory now sees the Eagles just three points adrift of leaders Manchester Medics who were thwarted by the wet weather, with the sides having now played the same number of games.

It was tough going against mid-table Trentham, with the game having been in doubt due to the state the pitch before an improvement in the weather saw it go ahead.

Trentham arrived determined to give their high-riding hosts a stern test, and the Eagles were soon given a shock as they found themselves trailing to a good pushover try in the corner, which went unconverted.

Undaunted, the Eagles hit back to get their noses in front with a try straight from the kick off with a terrific move launched from ruck.

A rocket pass from scrum half Hamish Fuller found centre Andy Merrett who moved the ball on to Gaz Hughes who released his twin brother Ivor. The speedy left winger was in full flow, eluding two Trentham backs with mesmerising foot work to score near the posts, with fly half Fin Grogan slotting the conversion for a 7-5 advantage.

The game continued with both sides looking to find gaps in defences, but penalties and infringements disrupted the flow with the heavy pitch also cutting up.

However, Oswestry were pushing back the big pack of Trentham in the scrum, and from one of these moves a sweet offload from Grogan saw the ball pass through quick hands to full back Luca Owen-Youens who bulldozed his way through the Trentham defence to score under the posts., Grogan again converted for a 14-5 interval lead.

Penalty

After the interval, coach Dan Samuels made a change, replacing Dean Lloyd-Hughes with Scott Double in the pack, but a soft penalty conceded by the home team gave Trentham the start they wanted as they reduced the arrears with a penalty.

The Stoke men now had the bit between their teeth, and started to put their hosts on the back foot.

Oswestry defended heroically to prevent their visitors from crossing the line, before a great clearance from Grogan took his side back up the pitch.

Trentham then conceded a penalty, which Grogan kicked from distance to give the Eagles some breathing space.

The visitors, however, were up for the fight as they chased at least a losing bonus point, and were camped in the Oswestry half using every tactic they could.

They did their utmost to score a vital try, but again and again the Eagles repelled them with stirring defence and a clearance by Fuller getting the Oswestry men out of trouble.

With less than five minutes to go, the Shropshire men were only metres away from scoring another try before the visitors launched a break-away with a long boot down the pitch.

With the Eagles on the back foot, Trentham took their chance to cross for a pushover try that their efforts deserved.

But the home side, for whom Chris Hesketh was named man-of-the-match, were not to be denied a gritty win, and will look to keep up the pressure at home to Isle of Man side Vagabonds on Saturday (2pm).

OSWESTRY II halted a four match losing run in division four (south) with a fine 19-12 victory at home to second placed Macclesfield IV.

Parry off to flier with rally win



Craig Parry (left) and Elfyn Evans took the overall victory and British Rally championship lead

ELFYN Evans and Oswestry co-driver Craig Parry claimed victory on the opening round of the MSA British Rally Championship for the DMACK British Rally Team.

The Welsh pairing used their Ford Fiesta R5 to good effect to conquer the competition and conditions in Mid Wales.

It was not to be plain sailing as they were pushed all the way, after an event long battle with the Scandinavian pairing of Fredrik Ahlin and Morton Erik Abrahamson in a similar Ford Fiesta R5.

The final winning distance was a mere 17.1 seconds between the two young protagonists. Tom Cave and James Morgan finished a fine third overall making it three Fiestas on the podium.

The MSA British Rally Championship got off to a spectacular start in Wales last weekend.

The series, which took a year sabbatical, returned with a bang on the opening round, the Mid Wales Stages.

More than 50 of the best crews in the best cars launched themselves into six demanding timed gravel stages over the course of the two-day event.

Treacherous icy conditions greeted the competitors on the opening two tests on Saturday evening.

The darkness coupled with the tricky road surfaces was a real baptism for the crews as they challenged the grip and pushed as hard as they dared on the gravel

and snow covered stages.

The first car away was Evans with Oswestry co-driver Parry sitting alongside. The Welsh pairing have come off the back of two wins in the WRC2 category in the FIA World Rally Championship and are dovetailing the full British series with their WRC commitments in 2016. Landing the first blow, Elfyn took a staggering 18.2 seconds out of the opposition before Fredrik Ahlin stepped up to take a second out of Evans going into the overnight halt.

Ahlin woke up in a confident mood Sunday morning as he reduced Evans' gap on the opening stage before snatching victory and the outright lead on the second – heading to the midday service with a 3.5 second cushion.

An inspired Evans continued the tantalising battle by topping the time sheets on the concluding two tests to overturn Ahlin and win the event by 17.1 seconds.

Crews can elect to play their 'Joker' on one of the first six rounds which doubles the crew's points on that event. Having played his on familiar home territory in Wales, Evans has walked away with 50 out of 50 points.

BRC1, the top category for the British Rally Championship saw a real tussle throughout the field with crews swapping positions on the second day.

Tom Cave and James Morgan in the Spencer Sport run Ford Fiesta made it three Fiestas on the podium and three different tyre manufacturers in the top three

with DMACK, Pirelli and Michelin fighting it out on the iconic stages.

Cave was to not have it his own way as he was pushed hard by the Scottish pairing of David Bogie and Kevin Rae in their striking Skoda Fabia R5. Bogie recorded several top three times, but two spins left him out of touch of Cave, 16 seconds the deficit at the end of the event.

Euan Thorburn brought his newly acquired Peugeot 208 T16 across the line in a respectable fifth ahead of Irishman Sam Moffit.

BRC2 winner Matt Edwards finished seventh and the DGM Motorsport Citroen DS3 R5 pairing of Jonathan Greer and Keith Cronin ended the weekend together in eighth and ninth respectively with Desi Henry rounding out the top 10 in his Skoda Fabia R5.

"To have won the first two WRC2 rallies and now here is a great start to the year, said the victorious Elfyn Evans, in his Ford Fiesta R5.

"I am really pleased to have won – the last event I won outright was in 2011, so it has been a long time coming.

"The road position was a disadvantage but when conditions improved on the Sunday I was confident I was able to control the situation but Fredrik did have me worried! I pushed as hard as I could in the afternoon and it all came good in the end."

Ladies side get back on track with timely win

AFTER suffering back-to-back defeats, Oswestry Ladies got back one track in the Cheshire Women's Hockey League division two with a welcome 1-0 win at home to Knutsford Ladies.

The border side had enough chances to have won by more, but would have been happy enough with the victory that avenged a 2-0 loss earlier in the season against a side that has generally struggled this season.

Oswestry went into the encounter with a strong squad available as they look for a strong end to the season to cement their position in the second division.

They started strongly, making the ball do the work with quick, fast flowing passing play, which led to several chances to take he lead, only to be foiled by the visiting keeper who had a terrific game.

Knutsford themselves had a number of skilful players, and certainly did not play like a team in the bottom third of the league as they kept the home side on their toes.

Breakthrough

But Oswestry worked well as a team to maintain their dominance of the game and were able to hold a high line for the most part.

After a number of near misses, it seemed they would not get the goal they so deserved, but finally made the breakthrough when Rachel Arthan kept a cool head to score an excellent goal from a tight angle.

This goal galvanised Knutsford as they chased an equaliser, and they were able to fashion a number of short corners.

Oswestry's defensive unit stayed strong and did not panic, working to shut down these chances to secure a win they fully deserved, although in reality, they probably should have won by more.

The rearranged fixture against Macclesfield the following day was cancelled due to snow, so Oswestry's next match will be on Saturday at home to Warrington who are currently second in the league.

Welshpool golf league goes to wire

CARWYN Jones (15) and Mike Williams (7) shared top spot with a score of +2 in the Winter League Bogy at Welshpool Golf Club on Saturday.

This left Dale Hardy (12) and Ian Spencer (20) to share third place with a score of +1.

With two rounds to go in the Winter League, the contest is well and truly on with three players being in close contention. Mike Williams has now taken top spot with a total of 49 points from Richard Templeton with 48 and, closing the gap rapidly, is Carwyn Jones with 40 points.

On Sunday, the Rabbits and Tigers match was a thoroughly enjoyable four man Texas scramble. The captain's team, comprising John Morley (21), Steve Lloyd (20), Mark Roberts (17) and Richard Templeton (5), just managed to shade a win with 37.8 points.

Dai Ellis (16), Lionel Weaver (16), Dean Bowen (21) and Peter Dixon (22) were second with 38 points and Martin Ward (18), Mike Gittins (18), Roger Davies (19) and Harold Norris (22) brought up third with 38.8 points.

The pressure appears to be getting to the leaders in the seniors winter league which was played on Thursday. The top four players all failed to score in the penultimate round, which was won by Ben Bowen (21) with 25 points.

Coming second was Will Cooke (20) with 24 points beating Harold Norris (22) into third position on count-back. Stan Rawlings maintains his slender overall lead into the final round.

Wobbling Waterloo are beaten once more

THE dip in fortunes goes on for Waterloo Rovers who succumbed 3-2 at home to 10-man Bow Street to slip to 12th place the Spar Mid Wales League division one.

Rovers were 3-0 down early in the second half, with Tomos Williams netting all three for the visitors who also had Ifan Burrell sent off before the interval for his second booking.

Waterloo then rallied, with substitute Tom Ellis pulling one back, and Nathan James getting a second, but there was no way back as their poor run continues.

Struggling **MONTGOMERY** earned a battling 1-1 draw at home to Llandrindod Wells, but still appear to be heading for relegation.

In-form Hay St Mary's completed a double over Llanidies Town as they ran out 4-1 winners at home to follow up there 5-3 victory at Victoria Avenue a few weeks back.

An own goal, Jack Biggs, Rob Sheddin, with a 30-yard free kick, and Brendan Hackett (penalty) were the contributors for Hay who have now won six in a row, with Rhys Evans levelling for the Daffs with a spot kick.

Second placed Penrhyncoch kept up the title pressure in the first division title chase after overcoming one of their chief rivals, Carno, 2-1 at Cae Baker.

Despite falling behind to an early strike from Gregg Brown following a defensive slip, the Roosters hit back with goals either side of half time, with Dylan James levelling with a 30-yarder and Nathan Warren heading what proved the winner.

Victory – which maintained their unbeaten league form – keeps Penrhyn just one point behind leaders Knighton Town who were impressive 6-2 winners at Tywyn Brynrcrug. Knighton, however, have played two more games than their closest rivals.

High-flying **BERRIEW** extended their lead at the top of division two to four points with a 4-0 verdict at Abermule - their 10th win in a row.

Richard Davies led the way with a brace, with Rob Pritchard and Jack Lewis also finding the net.

Churchstoke's home encounter with lowly **DYFFRYN BANW** was postponed, while **FOUR CROSSES** suffered more woe with a 6-2 hammering at Radnor Valley.

Elsewhere, Bettws were 2-0 winners against Bont, while lowly Penybont notched a welcome 3-0 home success over Oorth United.

■ The wet weather returned to haunt Morda United whose home fixture against Llanfechain in the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division one was called off due to a waterlogged pitch.

Club officials felt the game was in doubt with the Weston Road pitch under water on the Friday, and these fears were confirmed.

Derby with Newtown is live on TV

THE Welsh Premier League derby between The New Saints and Newtown has been chosen as the live match on S4C's Sgorio on Saturday, March 26.

The defending champions could feasibly clinch the title once again with victory over their neighbours in the match at Park Hall which kicks off at 5.15pm.

With the Saints sitting pretty at the top of the table, Sgorio presenter Dylan Ebenezer believes that the Saints' historic 10th league title – and fifth in a row – is just a matter of time.

"I can't see anyone stopping the Saints", he said. "The other teams could give them a game on their day, but as they've proved again this season, no one can keep up with them over nine months. Newtown have a good recent record against them. But what's scary about the Saints is that if they need to win, they usually do – and especially at Park Hall."

Llanfair have got plenty in reserve

WITH title rivals Meifod not playing, Llanfair United reserves tightened their grip on the top of the JT Hughes Montgomeryshire League division one with a hard fought 1-0 win at Llanfyllin.

On a heavy pitch after the week's rain, Llanfair struggled to put passes together, but managed to come away with all three points.

Llanfyllin missed the first chance which was saved by keeper Mark Richards, before Matthew Bumford twice raced through for Llanfair but failed to find

the net.

Llanfair's goal came from a well worked free kick by Ben Jones who flicked the ball over the wall into Toby Evans who rounded the keeper to score.

In the second half, Llanfair were dominant but failed to grab a second goal despite Josh Astley, Toby Evans and Ashley Davies all going close.

Meanwhile, **GUILSFIELD** RES saw their run in the Emrys Morgan Cup come to an abrupt end as they crashed out 9-3 to Llandysul in the quarter-fi-

nal.

The home side paid the price for a host of mistakes although they had been level at 1-1 through Luke Francis' deflected shot.

However, Llandysul took charge with four more goals before half time to put the outcome of the tie in no doubt.

GUILSFIELD pulled back a couple of goals in the second period but continued to gift goals at the other end.

Mullan's strike puts TNS in Cup last four

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

AN early strike from winger Jamie Mullan proved enough to take holders The New Saints into the semi-finals of the Welsh Cup with a 1-0 passage against Newtown at the Venue.

The Saints should have been out of sight, but were wasteful in front of goal as a succession of opportunities were spurned in both halves to allow the Robins to stay in the hunt.

The visitors could then have made their hosts pay late on, with substitute Sean Evans twice going close while Luke Boundford spurned a golden chance in the last minute when dragging the ball wide with just keeper Paul Harrison to beat.

It was closer than it should have been for the Saints, who now take on gap Connah's Quay in the semi-finals as they chase a third straight Welsh Cup triumph, and sixth in all.

TNS boss Craig Harrison felt the tie should have been done and dusted long before, but was delighted to be in another semi-final.

"No disrespect to Newtown, I thought 1-0 flattered them," he said.

"We had six really good opportunities over the 90 minutes, but not taken them, and at the end they had a great opportunity from our sloppiness to take the game into extra time.

"I think that would have been harsh on us, but it goes to show that you can get punished if you don't take your chances and make the right decisions.

"We're now in another semi-final, we're delighted with that, and we'll still focused on winning the treble again which we earmarked at the start of the season."

Certainly, historic back-to-back trebles has moved a step closer with the Saints having already won the Word Cup earlier this year, while playing a commanding nine points clear at the top of the Welsh Premier table.

In a repeat of last season's final with Newtown, the Saints could not have wished for a better start as they were in front after just eight minutes when the Newtown defence failed to deal with Chris Marriott's cross and winger Mullan pounced to lift the ball over keeper Dave Jones.

Despite bossing possession and territory, the hosts were unable to add to their tally, largely down to some wasteful finishing and some fine saves from Jones in goal.

TNS will now face gap Connah's Quay in the semi-final at a neutral venue, while Airbus UK – conquerors of Bala Town – and Port Talbot meet in the other tie. Connah's Quay, the only side to have defeated the Saints this season, booked their ticket with a 2-0 victory at Cardiff Met.

Town rule in cup clash with Castle



Town's Cal Williams goes through one-on-one with the Bishop's Castle keeper. Picture: Ian Jones.

HIGH-FLYING FC Oswestry Town booked their place in the semi-finals of the Shropshire FA Challenge Cup with a 3-0 passage at Bishop's Castle, **writes JOHN BRIDGWATER.**

Town were soon on the front foot in a bright start, and had early chances through Chris Bishop and Jack Harris.

Midfielders Olly Jones and Tommy Lewis were calling the tune, but for all the possession and dominance, it was the home side who nearly took the lead but for a fine save from keeper Paul Morris low to his left.

Castle continued to dig deep and managed to hold firm until

half-time, but their resistance was broken in the second period.

With the Oswestry visitors upping the ante after the break, they were rewarded when the south Shropshire hosts put into their own net after Harris had pressured a home defender.

Just three minutes later. Town doubled the lead when winger Guy Guilford fired home into the bottom left corner.

The visitors had more chances through Cal Williams and Al Morris before booking their semi-final spot with 20 minutes to play when Harris found Harry Kerr who flicked the ball into the bottom right corner.

Town now return to action in the Mercian Regional League premier division on Saturday against Church Stretton at Park Hall (3pm) as they look to maintain their title push.

After having no game last weekend, **ST MARTINS** return to duty away to Team Dudley as they look to maintain their challenge for a top three finish in the West Midlands League division one.

They will be out to bounce back from a 3-2 loss at Shenstone Pathfinders in their last outing as they chase a double against a Dudley side who they defeated at home just a few weeks back.

Weather is winner as Alliance games off

IT proved another damp squib for both Llanfair United and GUILSFIELD who again had to sit out a round of Huws Gray Cymru Alliance fixtures due to the weather.

Llanfair, battling for league survival, were due to entertain Holywell Town, but were left sidelined by a waterlogged pitch at the Mount Field following heavy rain late in the week.

They are still fourth from bottom, two points above Mold Alex, but three points adrift of fellow strugglers Conwy Borough who boosted their cause with a 2-1 win at Caersws.

Looking to keep the pressure on the leading pack, **GUILSFIELD** were also frustrated by the weather with their trip to Prestatyn Town another game to succumb to a waterlogged surface.

The Guils remain fourth, three points off second spot, but are now 10 points adrift of leaders Caernarfon Town who were 2-0 winners at Rhayader Town, despite playing the whole of the second half with nine men in an ill tempered affair.

Meanwhile, relegation fears are growing for Caersws who remain adrift in the Cymru Alliance basement zone following their 2-1 home loss o fellow strugglers Conwy Borough.

Having boosted their cause with a 2-0 victory a Llanfair United the week before, the Bluebirds' hopes of building on that success were dashed as the North Walians returned with the spoils.

Griffiths atoned for his spot kick miss when levelling right on half time from an Elliot Jones cross, while the villagers had their chances after the break to take the lead.

Two minutes later, Conwy were in front with a penalty themselves, Lee Davey finding the net despite keeper Phil Draper getting a good hand to his effort.

Griffiths atoned for his spot kick miss when levelling right on half time from an Elliot Jones cross, while the villagers had their chances after the break to take the lead.

But they conceded a soft goal from Ross Rule, who broke from inside his own half before seeing his 25-yarder squirm past keeper Draper and roll into the net.

Jojo Harris was then sent off for what was deemed a lunging tackle, while Conwy also had a player dismissed in the resulting melee.

Saturday's fixtures

Huws Gray Cymru Alliance (2.30): Caernarfon Town v Mold Alex, Caersws v Prestatyn Town, Gresford Athletic v Rhayader Town, GUILSFIELD v Denbigh Town, Holywell Town v Holyhead Hotspur, Llanfair United v Cefn Druids, Porthmadog v Buckley Town.

Huws Gray Cup: Conwy Borough v Flint Town Utd.

Golf returns from your local club

HILL VALLEY
Ladies' Turkey Trot (9 Holes): S Wynn 14pts; G Thomas 13pts.

Winter Pairs Greensome (15 Holes): S Wynn & B Sierstema 85-19=66; C Ellwood & I Stiles 88-21=67; S Lockett & J Wiruszek 89-20=69.

MILE END
Team Yellow Ball Winners: J C Wildblood, D Wheeler 120pts.

Runners Up: R Roberts, T Parkes, D Birch 116pts; P & A Eke, R Meyer 112pts.
Sunday Social: B Davies, G Harper, A Eke, B Jones 63pts; N Tomkinson, A Pugh, P Jones, S Ball 56pts; R Pugh, M Holmes, P Eke, R Osborne 54pts.

March Stableford Division 1: J Turner 35pts; K Cawley 35pts; J Turner 34pts; Division 2: G Manson 34pts; M Pierce 32pts; S Holloway 32pts; Division 3: B Power 37pts; C Wildblood 36pts; N Rogers 32pts.

Nearest The Pin: M McKay 60cm.

OSWESTRY
February Stableford Division 1: M Knapper 38; E Hibbert 37; L Turner 36 (c/b); K Edwards 36 (c/b); M Jennings 35; J Hamson 35; Division 2: M Hothersall 39; N Kershaw 38; D Hopton 36 (c/b); S Foulkes 36; D Trow 35 (c/b); P Ballard 35; Division 3: S Pearce 39; D Knight 38; C Johnson 36 (c/b); J Watkiss 36; S Pierce 34 (c/b); M Hughes 34 (c/b).

Best Gross: G Evans 73 (c/b)
Sunday Morning Draw For Partners Four Ball Better Ball Medal (15 Holes): G Godbold & K Probert 53; N Suckley & F Mottram 56 (c/b); M Jones & S Probert 56 (c/b); G Goff & G Huggett 57 (c/b).

THE BROW

Winter League: P Fairbank 27pts; T Brough 24; K Abbott 22; T Williams 21 (c/b); P Shore 21.



Nicoll thinks big after her first medal

WELSHPOOL shot putter Adele Nicoll believes she is ready to thrive on the big stage. The 19-year-old claimed her first senior medal by taking bronze at the British Indoor Championships.

Her personal best throw of 15.91 metres at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield left her behind only Rachel Wallader and Sophie McKinna.

Seven days before that she won gold at the same venue when representing Cardiff Met University at the British Universities and Colleges Sports Nationals.

Nicoll is closing in on the 16-metre mark and insists she is starting to feel at home in the senior ranks.

"I was really excited with the way the weekend went," said Nicoll, part of the SSE Next Generation programme.

"I knew that I was ready to perform and that I was in good shape and had been throwing well in training, including PBs. It was just about showing that on the day."

"It's my first senior medal. When I went to BUCS I knew that my season's best was a lot further than any of my competitors."

"Obviously it was different at the British Championships as I was coming up against much tougher opposition."

"At the start of the year I said to myself I wanted to throw 16m this season so to get within 9cm of that by the end of the indoor season is really pleasing."

"There were people there who were trying to get the Olympic qualification standard for Rio. But I like competing on the big stage and I think it drove me on."

The former Oswestry Olympian now turns to an outdoor campaign. In the long term, she is targeting the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast of Australia – but next stop is a hospital trip to have her tonsils out.

"I was struggling with them throughout winter and it's not good," she added.

SSE's Next Generation programme partners with SportsAid to provide financial support and training to the sports stars of the future. Keep up to date with the latest @SSENextGen

Shropshire toasting new Marston's deal

CRICKET Shropshire has secured a sponsorship deal with Marston's for the 2016 season.

The deal will see the beer company back matches throughout 2016. It also gives Marston's an opportunity to be at awards nights and co-host a charity cricket match to be decided on later in the year.

Richard Cox, general manager at Cricket Shropshire, said: "We are very pleased to have Marston's, a major local company, joining us as partners and look forward to our new association."

Cricket Shropshire are responsible for all recreational club cricket in the county and making cricket accessible and enjoyable for those who want to be involved.

Peter Morris, Business Development Manager at Marston's PLC said: "We are delighted to be involved with such a prolific sports club with a rich heritage in our local area."

"We wish all involved with Shropshire Cricket a hugely successful 2016."

Cook dishes up a Guilsfield cup win

FOOTBALL by John Bridgewater

GUILSFIELD kept their flag flying in the Central Wales Cup, reaching the quarter-finals with a 3-2 win over a resolute Penrhyncoch at Clos Mytton.

The Cymru Alliance men now face the winners of Abernule and Llanfair United in the last eight, but had to battle all the way against the Spar Mid Wales League division one high-fliers.

After a goalless first half in the midweek tie, the deadlock was broken when Jack Richards met a Jake Cook cross – but the Roosters soon hit back to level.

A penalty from Cook after player-boss Dan Barton had been fouled in the box, and a further strike from Barton, seemed to put the Guils in

charge, although the visitors kept their hopes alive with a late reply.

Buoyed by their cup success, Guilsfield will hope to get back to Cymru Alliance action on Saturday at home to Denbigh Town as they bid to keep tabs on the leading pack.

It's been a stop-start spell for Dan Barton's men since the turn of the year, with more frustration last weekend when their trip to Prestatyn Town was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.

Although they are 10 points adrift of leaders

Caernarfon Town, the Guils remain just three points shy of second place with games in hand. "We've got to find that little bit of consistency to the end of the season," said boss Barton.

LLANFAIR UNITED, who were also scuppered by the weather, resume their survival fight at home to Cefn Druids on Saturday.

Their home encounter with Holywell Town was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch, but they remain two points above the basement zone.

TNS under-19s kept the pressure on leaders Bangor City in the Welsh Development League (North) by beating Prestatyn Town 3-0 at home, keeping them two points off the pace.

DOUBLE DATE WITH DESTINY

THE New Saints are poised to move in for the kill in the Dafabet Welsh Premier title chase when they lock horns with their two remaining challengers in the next few days.

First, the defending champions host Llandudno at Park Hall tonight (Friday 7.45pm) before heading to Bala Town next Tuesday.

The two games could go a long way to deciding the title's destiny. Llandudno and Bala share second spot, nine points adrift of TNS, and defeats for the duo would surely end their slim hopes.

With a healthy lead at the top and just seven games remaining, the Saints already seem to have a fifth successive crown in their grasp as they look for back-to-back trebles. But they will not want any slip-ups against their closest rivals.

Promoted Llandudno arrive at Park Hall chasing European football and underlined their credentials with a 3-2 victory over Bala Town in their last outing.

Saints boss Craig Harrison is under no illusion his side face a stern challenge against the season's surprise package.

"We've got a tough game against Llandudno, no doubt about it," he said. "I saw them beat Bala the other week, and I was very impressed."

"They have a good mix of players who have been together and who won the league below last season, while they have also added three or four quality players."

Since suffering their only defeat of the season against gap Connah's Quay, the Saints have responded with some impressive wins.

"Retaining the treble was something we had earmarked at the start of the season," added Harrison. "Winning it once is hard enough, but to do it twice would rank as the best achievement in domestic Welsh football."

The Saints, meanwhile, clinched a Welsh Cup semi-final place by beating Newtown 1-0 at Park Hall. "No disrespect to Newtown, I thought 1-0 flattered them," said Harrison.

TNS will now take on gap Connah's Quay in the semi-final, while Airbus UK and Port Talbot meet in the other tie. They will be played on Saturday, April 2, at neutral venues to be announced.

New boss of FIFA thanks Phil



Phil Pritchard, centre, receives his IFAB award from Gianni Infantino, right, and Wales FA president David Griffiths during the ceremony in Cardiff

WELSHPOOL'S Phil Pritchard has received recognition for 20 years' service to international football.

The Welsh FA member was presented with a watch and became the first person to receive an award from the new president at FIFA, Gianni Infantino. The ceremony took place in Cardiff at the 130th annual meeting of the International Football Board (IFAB).

"The award was for 20 years' service to the International Football Association Board, which is made up of representatives from Wales, England, Northern Ireland, Scotland,

and FIFA," said Pritchard, a former president of the Welsh FA.

"It was a great honour to receive. I have known Gianni Infantino since he first came to UEFA as their general secretary many years ago."

"There is absolutely no doubt in my mind he is the very best man for the job as head of FIFA."

Four years ago, Pritchard chaired the annual meeting which introduced goal-line technology to football. This year's meeting supported the possibility of using video replays.

Look who's back home at long last

IT'S a case of home sweet home as Llanrhaeadr play their first game on their own soil in three months on Saturday when they welcome Penrhyncoch in the Spar Mid Wales League division one.

A succession of postponements and away ties in cup competitions means Llan's senior side last played at home back on Saturday, November 14.

And it could hardly be a tougher encounter for the villagers as they take on unbeaten title-chasers Penrhyn.

They can take heart from last weekend when defeating Machynlleth 4-0 in the Central Wales Cup, and will now visit either Berriew or Llanidloes Town in the quarter-finals.

After a weekend off, WELSHPOOL are back in action with a trip to Tywyn Brynrcrug while near neighbours WATERLOO ROVERS will hope to stop the rot in their home clash with Aberaeron.

In division two, high-flying BERRIEW look to maintain their title pursuit at Newbridge. "We will be seeking a bit of revenge after a dire performance in the home game, our only league defeat so far," said manager Dave Jones, the former Welshpool boss. "Newbridge are more than capable of beating us if our attitude and commitment is not right."

"However, I am confident the players will look to put it right and get another win to put us closer to the title."

Jones says underdogs Berriew will "have nothing to lose" on Tuesday when they host first division Llanidloes Town in a Central Wales Cup last-16 tie.

"If we apply ourselves properly and perform as we have been recently then we are more than capable of springing a surprise," he said.

Saturday games (2.30pm unless stated). Division One: Bow Street v Montgomery, Carno v Llandrindod Wells, Knighton v Machynlleth, Llanrhaeadr v Penrhyncoch (1.30pm), Tywyn Brynrcrug v Welshpool (1pm), Waterloo v Aberaeron.

Soaring Eagles face a difficult journey

OSWESTRY'S rugby players look to keep up the title pressure in the Cheshire South when they host Isle of Man side Vagabonds on Saturday (2pm).

The second-placed Eagles kept their challenge on the boil with a hard-fought 17-13 success over gutsy Trentham at a muddy Granville Park last weekend.

Victory closed the gap to just three points on leaders Manchester Medics, whose scheduled home encounter with Ramsey succumbed to a waterlogged pitch. Both sides have now played the same number of games.

Oswestry face another tricky assignment against a consistent Vagabonds side lying third, nine points behind with a game in hand. They cannot afford to slip up as the Medics appear to have a straightforward task at lowly Congleton.

The top three teams are set to be promoted to the South Lancs and Cheshire One next season, the fourth-placed team going into the play-offs.

With six games remaining, Oswestry are well placed for promotion but want the divisional title.

Match report – Page 38

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